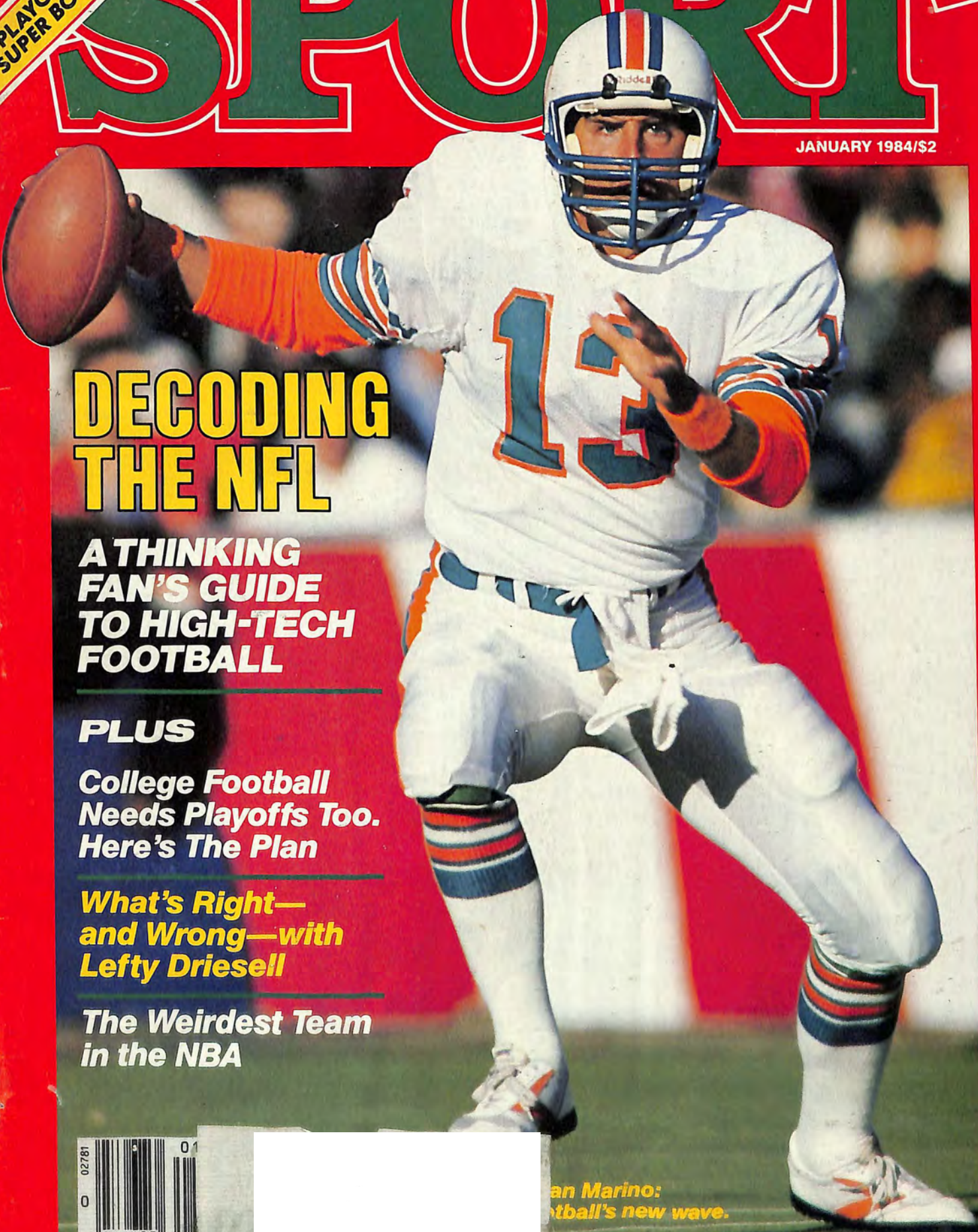


PLAYOFF SPECIAL:
SUPER BOWL SCIENCE

SPORT

JANUARY 1984/\$2



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TO HIGH-TECH
FOOTBALL**

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**College Football
Needs Playoffs Too.
Here's The Plan**

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and Wrong—with
Lefty Driesell**

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NCAA 1983-84 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

1984 BIG TEN

ILLINOIS

November 25-26 CHICAGO TRIBUNE CLASSIC
December 2,3 ILLINI CLASSIC
December 6 VANDERBILT
December 10 WEST TEXAS STATE
December 12 LOYOLA
December 21 CAL. ST.-NORTHBRIDGE
December 24 KENTUCKY
December 28 MISSOURI
January 5 MINNESOTA
January 7 WISCONSIN
January 11 INDIANA
January 14 OHIO STATE
January 21 PURDUE
January 26 MICHIGAN STATE
January 28 MICHIGAN
February 2 IOWA
February 4 NORTHWESTERN
February 8 NORTHWESTERN
February 12 IOWA
February 16 MICHIGAN
February 19 MICHIGAN STATE
February 25 PURDUE
March 1 OHIO STATE
March 4 INDIANA
March 8 MINNESOTA
March 10 WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

November 26 FLORIDA A&M
December 1 NORTHERN IOWA
December 3 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
December 5 NEBRASKA
December 7 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
December 10 KANSAS STATE
December 20 TOLEDO
December 29-30 MERRILL LYNCH CLASSIC
January 5 PURDUE
January 7 ILLINOIS
January 12 MICHIGAN STATE
January 14 MICHIGAN
January 19 NORTHWESTERN
January 21 IOWA
January 25 MINNESOTA
February 2 OHIO STATE
February 4 INDIANA
February 9 INDIANA
February 11 OHIO STATE
February 15 MINNESOTA
February 16 MARQUETTE
February 23 IOWA
February 26 NORTHWESTERN
March 1 MICHIGAN
March 3 MICHIGAN STATE
March 6 PURDUE
March 11 ILLINOIS

MINNESOTA

November 26 S. DAKOTA STATE
November 28 INDIANA STATE
December 3 MARQUETTE
December 5 OREGON
December 19 JACKSONVILLE
December 22 NORTH DAKOTA
December 28 DETROIT
December 30 MONTANA STATE
January 2 IOWA STATE
January 5 ILLINOIS
January 7 PURDUE
January 12 MICHIGAN
January 14 MICHIGAN STATE
January 19 IOWA
January 21 NORTHWESTERN
January 25 WISCONSIN
February 2 INDIANA
February 4 OHIO STATE
February 9 OHIO STATE
February 11 INDIANA
February 15 WISCONSIN
February 23 NORTHWESTERN
February 25 IOWA
March 1 MICHIGAN STATE
March 3 MICHIGAN
March 8 ILLINOIS
March 10 PURDUE

MICHIGAN STATE

November 25-26 SPARTAN CUTLASS CLASSIC
December 1 ST. PETERS
December 3 ILLINOIS-CHICAGO
December 12 CLEVELAND STATE
December 15 BROOKLYN COLLEGE
December 22 MISSOURI
December 28-29 COTTON STATES CLASSIC
January 6 IOWA
January 8 NORTHWESTERN
January 13 WISCONSIN
January 15 MINNESOTA
January 20 INDIANA
January 22 OHIO STATE
January 27 ILLINOIS
January 29 PURDUE
February 3 NOTRE DAME
February 5 MICHIGAN
February 12 MICHIGAN
February 17 PURDUE
February 19 ILLINOIS
February 24 OHIO STATE
February 26 INDIANA
March 2 MINNESOTA
March 4 WISCONSIN
March 8 NORTHWESTERN
March 10 IOWA

IOWA

December 2-3 AMANA-HAWKEYE CLASSIC
December 7 LOUISVILLE
December 10 OREGON STATE
December 19 COLORADO
December 21 DRAKE
December 29-30 WINSTON TIRE CLASSIC
January 4 MICHIGAN STATE
January 7 MICHIGAN
January 12 NORTHWESTERN
January 14 IOWA STATE
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February 18 OHIO STATE
February 23 WISCONSIN
February 25 MINNESOTA
March 1 NORTHWESTERN
March 3 SOUTH CAROLINA
March 7 MICHIGAN
March 11 MICHIGAN STATE

OHIO STATE

November 26 AKRON
December 1 MARYLAND
December 3 CONNECTICUT
December 11 MISSOURI
December 14 TULANE
December 17 OHIO UNIVERSITY
December 19 BOWLING GREEN
December 22 KANSAS
December 29-30 CABLE CAR CLASSIC
January 7 INDIANA
January 12 PURDUE
January 14 ILLINOIS
January 18 MICHIGAN
January 21 MICHIGAN STATE
January 26 IOWA
January 28 NORTHWESTERN
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February 16 NORTHWESTERN
February 18 IOWA
February 22 MICHIGAN STATE
February 25 MICHIGAN
March 1 ILLINOIS
March 3 PURDUE
March 10 INDIANA

PURDUE

November 25-26 SUN-MET CLASSIC
November 30 LOUISVILLE
December 3 MIAMI, OHIO
December 5 BOSTON UNIVERSITY
December 10 TAMPA
December 17 YOUNGSTOWN STATE
December 19 EVANSVILLE
December 22 DePAUL
December 28 KENTUCKY
January 5 WISCONSIN
January 7 MINNESOTA
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January 14 INDIANA
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February 25 ILLINOIS
February 29 INDIANA
March 3 OHIO STATE
March 6 WISCONSIN
March 10 MINNESOTA

NORTHWESTERN

November 28 BRADLEY
November 30 DENVER
December 3 LOYOLA
December 5 ILL-WESLEYAN
December 7 NOTRE DAME
December 10 MARQUETTE
December 21 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
December 27 CLEVELAND STATE
December 30 UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA
January 5 MICHIGAN
January 7 MICHIGAN STATE
January 12 IOWA
January 14 GEORGE MASON
January 19 WISCONSIN
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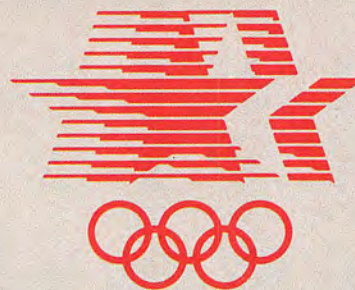
INDIANA

November 26 MIAMI, OHIO
November 29 NOTRE DAME
December 3 KENTUCKY
December 10 TENNESSEE TECH
December 16-17 TEXAS-EL PASO
December 21 INDIANA CLASSIC
December 29-30 KANSAS STATE
January 7 HOOSIER CLASSIC
January 11 OHIO STATE
January 14 ILLINOIS
January 19 PURDUE
January 21 MICHIGAN STATE
January 26 MICHIGAN
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February 18 IOWA
February 23 NORTHWESTERN
February 26 MICHIGAN
February 28 MICHIGAN STATE
February 29 PURDUE
March 4 ILLINOIS
March 10 OHIO STATE

MICHIGAN

November 26 TOLEDO
November 28 NORTH CAROLINA A&T
November 30 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
December 3 NORTHERN MICHIGAN
December 5 GEORGIA
December 10 DAYTON
December 17 DETROIT
December 21 RUTGERS
December 27-28 SUN BOWL CLASSIC
January 5 NORTHWESTERN
January 7 IOWA
January 12 MINNESOTA
January 14 WISCONSIN
January 18 OHIO STATE
January 21 INDIANA
January 26 PURDUE
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February 18 PURDUE
February 23 INDIANA
February 25 OHIO STATE
March 1 WISCONSIN
March 3 WISCONSIN
March 7 MINNESOTA
March 10 IOWA
March 10 NORTHWESTERN

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SPORT

JANUARY 1984

OUR 37TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

VOL. 75 NO. 1



27 Pigskinology



56 Football's final exam



47 Golden boy



63 Terp stew



17 Running on empty



38 Mystery ship

27 THE NEW PRO FOOTBALL ALMANAC

The NFL playoffs are here, and football's getting complicated. You can tell the players without a scorecard these days, but you can't understand the plays—until you read this story. Splits, jams, wig-wags, H-backs, keys. Take a crash course in state-of-the-art football. *By Kevin Lamb*

38 A STRANGE CREW ON THE CLIPPERS

Bill Walton as the footloose redhead who only wants to play ball. Terry Cummings as the great young talent with the rare disease. Norm Nixon as the reject with something to prove. It's certainly the weirdest cast in the NBA—but it might prove one of the best. *By Ted Green*

47 TWO SHOTS AT ONE GOAL

Both are ultra-talented American hockey players drafted in the first round by the NHL. Both had the same decision to

make—and chose differently. Brian Lawton is struggling as a rookie for Minnesota; he chose the green. Pat LaFontaine is romping with the U.S. Olympic team; he chose the gold. *By David Levine*

56 COLLEGE FOOTBALL NEEDS PLAYOFFS TOO

Every season a war of words rages over who is the true national champion of college football, but rarely is the war decided on the field. The wire service polls only serve to stir up debate. The bowl games rarely provide the definitive matchups. We have a plan to end the war. And it's not a secret. *By Norm Hitzges*

63 STILL WAITING FOR LEFTY

Fourteen years ago, basketball coach Lefty Driesell promised to make the University of Maryland into the "UCLA of the East." Driesell recruited great teams, but they all passed through College Park without so much as an ACC title, let

alone a national championship. His critics have not been quiet. Now, Maryland's got another team of talented Terrapins that can contend for the national title. Is the wait finally over? *By John Pugh*

17 INTERVIEW: ALBERTO SALAZAR

The running rebel, the man who shattered the record in the marathon, a gold medal hopeful in Los Angeles. On racing for the money, training to the breaking point, the competition and what makes him run—faster than any other marathoner in the world.

DEPARTMENTS

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High on hoops, bummed out by a boss & a football flashback.

NEW DAY IN THE NBA

Peter Vecsey, at long last, brings us Dr. Hunter S. Thompson gazing into "round ball" ("The 1983-84 NBA Preview," November). In our world of nukes, crooks and kooks, don't we all occasionally need to breathe in the fine aroma of Henny Youngman going one-on-one with Dr. J? Drake Taylor
Centralia, Illinois

You were right on the money with your Overpaid/Underpaid Teams in the NBA. I'd like to add Kelly Tripucka of the Detroit Pistons to the underpaid squad. His \$175,000 salary is peanuts for the league's third-leading scorer and a hustler who puts fans in the seats.

Frank McCree
West Orange, New Jersey

IRKSOME IRSAY

I feel as if I have just received a reprieve from death row. Someone finally expressed openly what has tormented every Colt fan for more than a decade ("A Boss With a Bad Reputation," November). Mr. Irsay has severed all of our Colt pride, but thank God he can't control our past. When my 11-year-old tells me the Colts stink, I still remember all the greatness of Johnny U., Gino, Raymond Berry, Lenny Moore and the Shula years.

Barry Steller
Randallstown, Maryland

The story on Robert Irsay mentioned that he went out for football at Illinois under the legendary Frank Zuppke. If Irsay attended Illinois prior to 1942, the coach was the legendary Robert Zuppke. Among other things, Robert Zuppke is credited with originating the huddle, the spiral pass from the center and plays known as the flea flicker and the flying trapeze.

Jay C. Hill
Manhattan Beach, California
You're right. Frank Zuppke is a legend in our own minds.—Ed.

STAT-BACKS

Your new statistic, YPT, yards per touch ("The New Wave Running Back," November), rewards the versatile running back who can catch passes, but fails to

go one step further and reward the extraordinary back who returns punts and/or kickoffs as well. Perhaps too few are so versatile in the 1980s, but I'm reminded of the one they called "Magic," Gale Sayers. I believe he once rushed, returned kickoffs and caught passes all for 100 yards in each category. If not, he came quite close.

Joe Schmidt
Chicago, Illinois

You may be thinking of a Bears game in 1965 against the 49ers in which Sayers, then a rookie, rushed for 113 yards, returned kickoffs for 134 yards and caught passes for 89 yards.—Ed.

SORRY, WRONG NUMBER

In the November issue you reported the answer to October's Stumper (Which baseball team was the first to wear uniforms with numbers and when were they worn?) to be the Cleveland Indians. According to the *Baseball Catalog* by Dan Schlossberg, Cincinnati was the first team to wear numbers on their uniforms. Schlossberg writes, "The 1888 Cincinnati Reds wore numbers on their sleeves, but players complained about being a number instead of a person, and the numerals came off. The Cleveland Indians repeated the Cincinnati experiment on June 26, 1916. . . ."

Eric Volkmann
Fennimore, Wisconsin
Forgive us; we were thinking of the modern era. And have a Sport T-shirt. (No number on the back, though. Too impersonal.)—Ed.

GORDIE VS. GRETZKY

Your comparison of Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe ("Stats," Sport Talk, November) is unfair in saying that Gretzky has done in four years what it took Howe 11 years to accomplish. Remember that Howe played his peak years in a six-team league with no 100-point scorers. These days, several players reach the 100-point mark every year because the quality of goaltending and defense is not as good as when Howe played. Gretzky is an excellent player, but if Howe were in his prime today, you'd be writing about Howe's scoring records instead of Gretzky's.

David Hankamp
Wyoming, Michigan

Go ahead—applaud us, argue with us, advise us, amuse us. Address your letters to: Fanfare, Sport Magazine, 119 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018.

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Since you can't always find a St. Bernard when you need one, it's nice to know there's something equally welcomed and infinitely more accessible. DeKuyper Peppermint Schnapps.

Instead of flapping your arms and hollering for help, a simple "Yo, Fido!"

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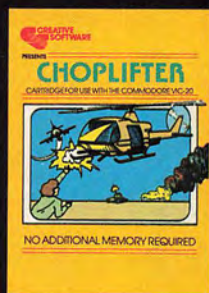
So why wait for a St. Bernard to reach you when you can reach for DeKuyper® Peppermint Schnapps. It'll brighten up your winter faster than you can say "bow wow."



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SERPENTINE* **For the Commodore VIC-20.**

Three huge and evil red snakes are slithering through the corridors of a burnt-out city, closing in on your good blue serpent from all sides. Move fast, watch your tail, and try to survive long enough to let your eggs hatch into reinforcements. Swallow the magical frogs or your enemy's eggs and you get the strength to go on! Complex strategy-action and increasing levels of difficulty.



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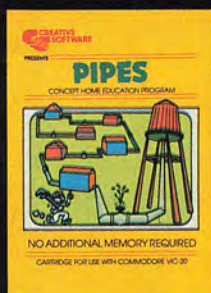
Now you can play some of America's hottest computer games on your Commodore, and get a FREE introduction to Home Management Software. It's our way of showing you that action-packed gaming is

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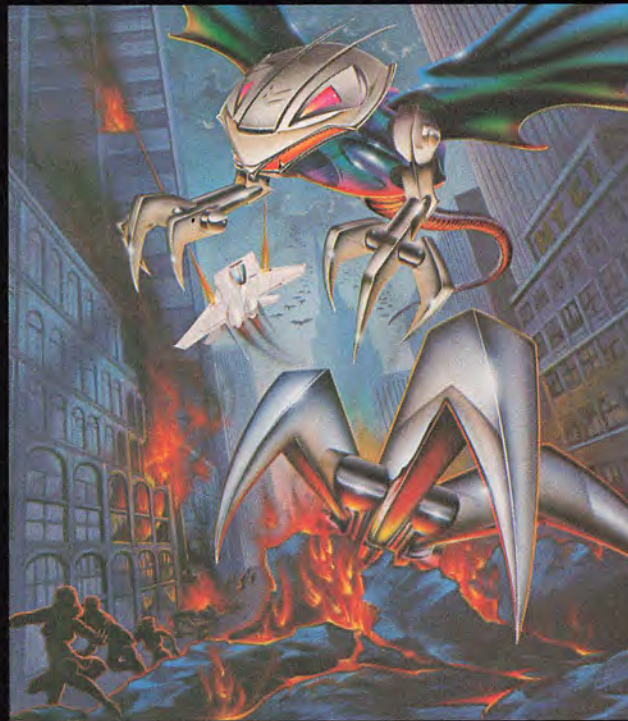
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SAVE NEW YORK™ For the Commodore 64.

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SPORT TALK

Referees' rights, coaches write & lefties are all right.

Edited by Barry Shapiro.

ARBITRATION ARMS RACE

After seeing its members lose the majority of their salary arbitration cases the last two years, the Major League Players' Association is looking to strike a balance of power this year. With the hearings a month away, the union will be using a computer to provide players and their agents with the same packages of statistics that management's man, former Astros GM Tal Smith, has been feeding the owners while saving them \$1.4 million.

The players lost 56 percent of the cases decided in 1983 and 63 percent in 1982, a steep drop from the 53 percent won in '81. The problem has been time. Because players usually file for arbitration at the last minute, agents have had little time to prepare their cases.

While they've had to collect statistics manually, the computer-equipped Smith could produce graphs, printouts and color charts at the press of a button.

"Preparation is essential," says agent Alan Hendricks. "I've seen agents go to arbitration with their arguments handwritten on a Big Chief tablet, while Tal's sitting there with a bound volume. Smith looked like he was going to the Supreme Court and the agent looked like a tenth grader going to political science class. The computer will make the difference."

Only figures available in box scores are admissible in arbitration hearings. "Guidelines had to be set," says former MLPA administrator Peter Rose, "because management was coming in with obscure stats. We told them to either give us that information beforehand or do away with it totally."

Agents will now have more time to prepare for some of the other unusual tactics both sides resort to during salary arbitration. At Fernando Valenzuela's hearing last year, the Dodgers showed a season highlight film, which featured Tom Lasorda's monologue about the Dodger *teamwork*; the implication being that Fernando was not the whole show. And some say Rick Cerone won in 1981 because a group of shrieking women showed up at the hearing requesting his autograph. "Supposedly," says Rose, "George Steinbrenner was so furious with the arbitrator for allowing Rick to look good that he worked to have the guy dropped. These things will probably continue to occur."

Meanwhile, the MLPA's main target, Tal Smith, is taking a "What, me worry?" attitude about the competition from the new



Tal Smith: MLPA target.

computer. "Agents will have their information sooner—but it will still be subject to interpretation. No computer ever provided the answers by itself."

SUPER EYE STRAIN FOR CBS

The road to the Super Bowl for the NFC and AFC champions began last July, with two-a-day workouts under a scorching sun.



A \$1-million production.

For CBS, the network that will bring the game to over 105 million viewers, the preparation for television's biggest production began a year earlier.

Just as teams gather information and develop game plans, CBS has taken five surveys of Tampa Stadium, studied its design and lighting, created mockups of camera placement, decided where to build the "NFL Today" set—even figured out where to park the CBS fleet of 25 trailers and trucks.

"Tampa is a difficult stadium for us," says Sandy Grossman,

director of football for CBS. "That's why we had to start so early. The press box is too high from the field for the shots we want, so we had to build three new camera platforms in the aisles."

After the construction, 20 miles of cable was laid in and around the stadium. The cable will provide 1,350 amps of power needed for 23 cameras (six is the norm during the regular season), 15 videotape machines (four is the usual number), 100 TV monitors and 150 telephones (so the 200 CBS technicians can keep in touch).

With the foundation in place, attention turns to Super Bowl week. There are dry-runs for everything, including the national anthem, the coin flip and player introductions. Two years ago, Grossman recruited a couple of local college teams to imitate the formations of the 49ers and Bengals. CBS will repeat that this year.

By game day, the CBS team should be a wreck. The day of Super Bowl XVI, says Grossman, "I got breakfast from room service and poured the entire decanter of cream right into the coffee pot. I started thinking, 'Maybe this is affecting me more than I think.'"

NHL: NO MORE FREE SPEECH

In 1791, the United States of America adopted the Bill of Rights. This year, the National Hockey League is trying to repeal the first amendment.

At the urging of Scotty Morrison, vice-president of officiating, NHL president John Ziegler has issued a memo to every team containing guidelines for their broadcasters. The guidelines restrict what the play-by-play men and color commentators can say about the way the referee and linesmen are handling the games.

Comments the league deems appropriate are: "I think that might have been a penalty"; "It appears that the referee did not see or consider that charging, but from here it looked like charging." Remarks that are unacceptable include: "The officiating has been terrible all year"; "That's the third call he's missed tonight."

Ziegler has promised to "take action" against any offender. What this means, says Ron Weber, president of the NHL Broadcasters Association and the radio voice of the Capitals, is that the league can ask the team or station for a review of the announcer and put pressure on it to take punitive steps.

So far, every broadcaster is un-

daunted. Islander announcer Jiggs McDonald, a former president of the broadcasters' association, says, "I've had quite a few letters from the league in the past suggesting I be more tolerant of officiating. But if there's an obvious situation on the ice, the broadcaster is compelled to say something."

Isles analyst Stan Fischler, who's also a hockey columnist, adds, "The NHL shouldn't treat broadcasters differently from reporters. They don't send out memos to reporters telling them what to write."

"It would be poor form to have a broadcaster removed," says Weber. "I'm not going to get upset about it unless they try to back it up. It's a free country."



No comment, please.

USFL SHOOTOUT AT THE ALAMO

Less than five miles from the site of the historic Alamo, a modern, bloody battle is raging in San An-

tonio, Texas. This one pits a new USFL franchise and its wealthy owner, a Democrat, against Republicans in the city council and various neighborhood groups. At stake is a home field for the San Antonio Gunslingers.

The war began in May when South Texas Sports Inc., an investment group bankrolled by oilman-rancher Clinton Manges, leased

44-year-old Alamo Stadium from the San Antonio school district for the Gunslingers' home games. The city of San Antonio filed suit against Manges' company and the school district, basing its claims on a 1939 deed restriction that bars activities "for private profit or private purpose" at the 22,700-seat facility. The Gunslingers filed a countersuit.

Meanwhile, the River Road Neighborhood Association—residents living near Alamo Stadium—headed for court, asking for a permanent injunction or \$100 million in damages if the Gunslingers are allowed to move in. The group claims USFL games will cause massive traffic jams and a health hazard from auto pollutants.

Despite the pending litigation, the Gunslingers proceeded with a \$5-million renovation of Alamo Stadium, expanding the seating

capacity and installing artificial turf. The team also sent a 22-page booklet to the 11 judges in the River Road case to point out the advantages of a USFL team to their city. The judges, however, became angry, feeling the Gunslingers were attempting to prejudice them.

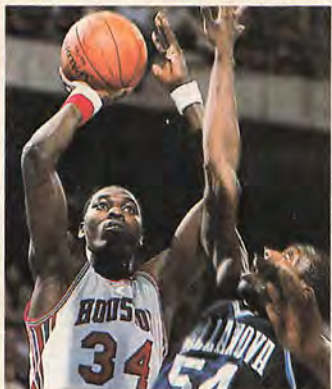
Insiders say the real stumbling block is the 60-year-old Manges, a liberal, who seems to rub the local Republican politicians, such as conservative councilman Van Henry Archer, the wrong way. After all, the Wings of the World Football League (in 1975) and the Thunder of the NASL (in 1975-76) were allowed to play there. But the law's the law, so the Gunslingers launched a petition drive in which they collected 68,000 signatures, and hope to have the deed restriction removed by the city council or by a public referendum. The proposition has a chance to get on the ballot in April.

The Gunslingers will play in Alamo Stadium—for this season, anyway. "Certainly we will," says Manges. "Would I be spending all this money if I didn't think we could play there?"

BETS

Larry Zarin of Sports Reporter, the top handicapping firm in the northeast, has devised a layman's guide to college and pro basketball. Each of his systems is based on a rule of thumb that not only works but makes sense as well.

• The top five scoring teams in



Akeem holds the line.

the NCAA are good bets as the home favorite. Over the last five years, the same five teams have been the highest scorers: Boston College, Syracuse, Houston, Virginia and Oklahoma. This holds true because of the coaches and their systems. As home favorites, those teams went 39-20 (66 percent) against the spread last year. The same goes for the pros. Denver, San Antonio and Los Angeles were 62-48 (56 percent) as home favorites last year.

• The top rebounding teams are good underdog bets. Those teams will pick up a lot of garbage points under the basket, chipping away at the spread. Last year's top rebounding schools were: Arkansas, Wichita State, Virginia, Houston, Wyoming, Appalachian State, Ohio State, Northeastern, Notre Dame and Missouri. Collectively, they went 28-19 against the spread. In the NBA, the Spurs, Clippers and Bullets fit the mold.

• Teams that rank high in field-goal percentage are great bets coming home after an outright road loss (not just a spread loss). Six of the top 10 field-goal percentage teams—Kentucky, Stanford, Notre Dame, Missouri, Houston and Oklahoma State—went 12-4 in that circumstance last year. After a road loss, their coaches will emphasize setting up for a high percentage shot and not getting caught up in a transition game.

WRITE THIS WAY TO THE PLAYOFFS

What kind of strategy can we expect in the NFL playoffs? The coaches won't tip their hands, but an analysis of their signatures reveals a lot about their coaching methods. Graphologist Michael Zimmer translates the handwriting on the wall.

ment shows Grant has a grasp of the essentials, a keen sense of order and a logical scheme.

Chuck Knox

Chuck Knox, Seahawks. There's a break between the *u* and lower case *c* in Chuck and between the *n* and *o* of Knox. Disconnected writing is always a sign of ESP as well as the mark of a highly visual thought process. His game plan will be flexible, allowing him to follow hunches.

Tom Landry

Tom Landry, Cowboys. The *m* in Tom is rounded at the top and pointed at the bottom like an arcade. Arcade writers are rather reserved and have a great sense of form and style. He also has a passion for mystery, which will result in some real razzle-dazzle.

Chuck Noll

Chuck Noll, Steelers. Notice how Chuck connects not only all

the letters in his name, but both his names as well. Highly connected writing is the mark of a strategist, frequently seen in chess players, politicians and military men. Noll's game plans are loaded with contingencies.

Don Shula

Don Shula, Dolphins. The top of the capital *D* in Don is open, revealing an intellectual curiosity, an open mind to experimentation. The slight but definite shift in the slant of Shula shows a conservative nature; if he tries something new and it isn't working out as expected, it will have a very short tenure.

John Robinson

John Robinson, Rams. This kind of writing is called thready. The letters at the end of Robinson have lost their shape. Thready writers are survivors, at their best in a crisis. This graphic also shows Robinson has a flair for acting, so expect deceptive plays and great halftime speeches.

Tom Flores

Tom Flores, Raiders. The long leftward extension on the capital letters in both Tom's first and last names is called a left-trend. These people win by intimidation, using tactics that harass, vex and annoy opponents.

Bud Grant

Bud Grant, Vikings. Here's a hook-up of names that's rarely seen. The long, final stroke on the end of the *d* in Bud crosses the *t* in Grant. This economy of move-

FIREBIRD TRANS AM

THE MOST AERODYNAMIC PRODUCTION CAR GM HAS EVER TESTED

In recent years, car companies all over the world have "discovered" aerodynamics. But while many others wrestle nervously with its mysteries, Pontiac brings advanced aero design out of the wind tunnel and onto the road. Introducing the ultra aerodynamic 1984 Trans Am with "ground effects" option package.

This slick combination of body fascias, side skirts, spoiler and air dam does more than make Trans Am exciting to look at. By controlling the pressure zones that form around Trans Am's aero shape, the "ground effects" package helps enhance stability. And cut wind resistance to the bare minimum. In fact, the Trans Am shown here with available hi-tech turbo aluminum wheels boasts an incredibly low .32 coefficient of drag (Cd). With standard aero wheels (not shown) the Cd drops to just .299 – the lowest of any production car GM has ever tested.

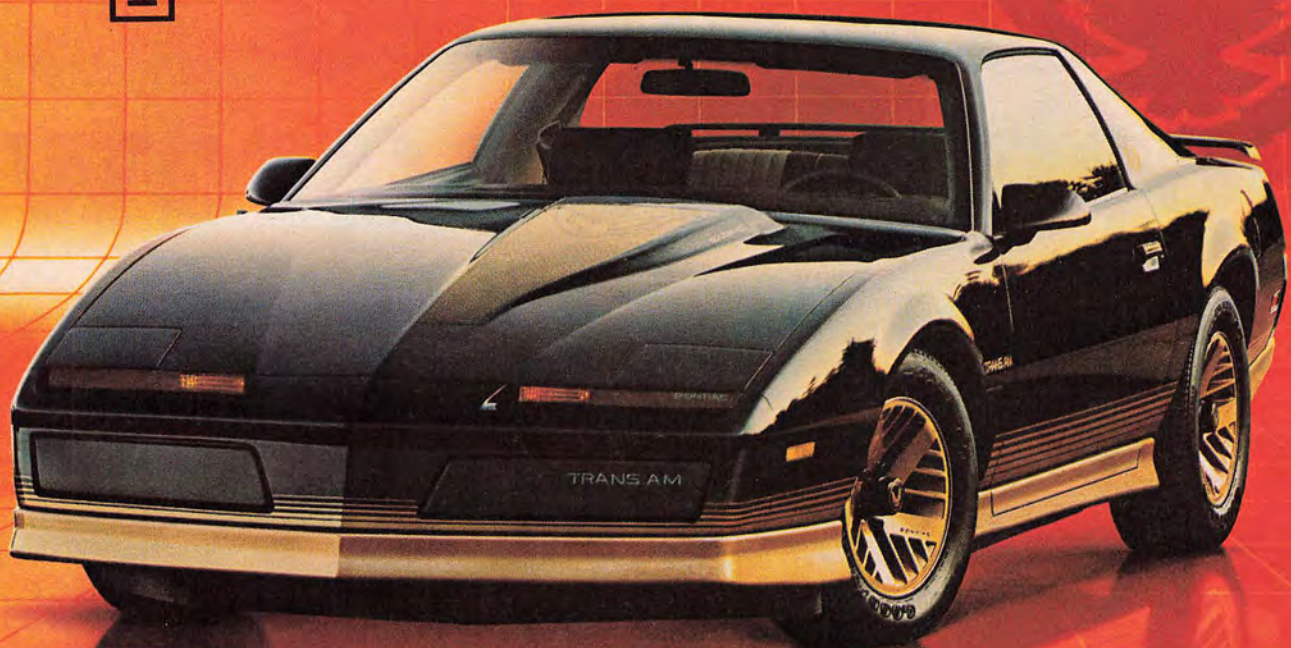
And when Pontiac engineers pitted this sleek machine against the stopwatch, the results were equally impressive. Zero to 60 in just 7.2 seconds on the test track, thanks to Trans Am's newly-available 5.0 liter High Output V-8.

The 1984 Pontiac Trans Am. Red hot performance, remarkable aerodynamics – clearly a breathtaking example of Pontiac innovation in action.

Some Pontiacs are equipped with engines produced by other GM divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliated companies worldwide. See your Pontiac dealer for details.



Cd .32



PONTIAC  **WE BUILD EXCITEMENT**



The stereo receiver you grow into, not out of.

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A receiver that serves as the foundation for a system that not only includes all of today's components, but includes an entire generation of components to come.

Sony presents the STR-VX550. Possessed with a unique Audio Video Control Center, it permits the integration of video components with audio components, al-

lowing you to play stereo video cassettes and video discs through your high-fidelity system.

What's more, the receiver's innovative remote-control capability enables you to command not just volume, but virtually every Sony audio/video function—without getting up from your easy chair.

And listening to it is very easy indeed. For among other virtues, this receiver offers Sony's brilliant Direct Access Tuning System. Even the amplifier does more than

merely amplify. Its Audio Signal Processor provides feather-touch controls with extraordinarily low levels of noise and distortion.

All of which results in a receiver whose sound is so exceptional, and whose capabilities are so expansive, there's only one element in your stereo system you're likely to outgrow.

Namely, your shelf space.

SONY
THE ONE AND ONLY.

WHY LEFTIES HIT BETTER

Southpaws have always been accused by baseball people of being eccentric, but medical science now has found that players who *both*



Hernandez: Southpaw swat.

bat and throw lefthanded are the best kind of players to have on your team.

Two doctors from the University of Illinois medical school, Dr. Fran Ciurczak, an assistant professor of health education, and Dr. John McLean, a neurologist and assistant clinical professor, made that finding after a two-part study. First they examined the batting averages of all major leaguers (ex-

cluding pitchers and switch-hitters) during the 1980 season. Those who threw right, regardless of whether they hit left or right, batted .260. Those who threw and hit left averaged .281. (The rare players—there were only 29—who threw left and hit right were not included.)

Then they looked at the lifetime averages of the top 141 hitters of all time, ranging from .299 to .367. Lefty and righty hitters who threw righthanded averaged an identical .314, but the pure lefties posted a superior mark of .322.

McLean says the answer lies in the brain. In righthanded people (about 90 percent of the population), the left side of the brain dominates speech and motor movement. "Lefties," contends McLean, "have both sides of the brain functioning in speech and, probably, in motor movement. We're saying that lefthanders have better manual dexterity in both hands than righthanders do in their left. Those who throw right and bat left are really righthanded individuals, in terms of what we know scientifically." A true lefty, he adds, throws and writes with his left hand.

Among the pure lefties who stand out are Babe Ruth (.342), Lou Gehrig (.340), Stan Musial (.331) and, more recently, Keith Hernandez (.299) and Bill Buckner (.295).

The moral for GMs, says Ciurczak, is: Make sure your free agent signee or young prospect throws and bats left—and signs his contract with his left hand, too.

STATS

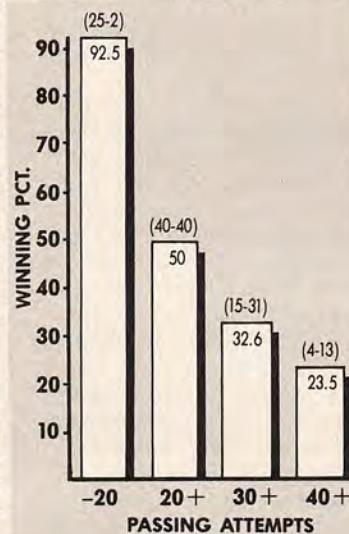
Even though the passing game has been given a lot of attention in the NFL over the last five years, the way to win in the playoffs and Super Bowl is by running the ball.

A study of every playoff and Super Bowl game over the last 10 years shows that a team's winning percentage drops for every pass over 20 thrown in a contest. One might say, "Sure, because the team that's behind has to throw the ball more." But the stats show that even in close games, the winner threw 20 passes or fewer.

In '79, the Oilers threw 10 times in their 13-7 win over the Broncos. The 49ers, who averaged 32 passes a game during the '81 season, threw 22 in the '82 Super Bowl. In the '73 Super Bowl, Dolphins' quarterback Bob Griese

tossed 11 passes in a 14-7 win over the Redskins.

Here's how teams fare passing less than 20 times, 20 or more, 30 or more and 40 or more times.



L.A. EQUIPS FOR LOOSE LIPS

Taking a page from George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles will include a 24-hour Rumor Control Center telephone hotline to "counter unfounded information."

The idea is to spot potential trouble areas and lessen tensions. Officials hope citizens who hear rumors of racial, ethnic or political disturbances—such as protest marches or terrorist activities—will call the center. The center will relay the information to the Coun-

ty Human Relations Commission. The commission will consult with community leaders to verify or refute the rumors, then share their findings with the police. If demonstrations are planned, the commission will offer to mediate.

Executive director Eugene Morrell adds he doesn't know how often the center's phones will ring. "There is no way to know what kind of disruptions or violence, if any, will take place in Los Angeles in 1984." But Big Brother will be watching.

TO RUN FASTER, TOW THE LINE

For years, the accepted wisdom has been that speed, like height, is something you either have or you don't. While there still is no way to increase height, Dr. George Dintiman and his partner Jack Dolan are marketing a device called the Sprint Master, which they claim can increase an athlete's running speed in five weeks.

The Sprint Master is a motorized tow line, powered by a five-horsepower engine. Once the machine is anchored, the athlete takes hold of the two pivoting handles at the end of the tow line. As he runs, the Sprint Master reels him in at a speed faster than his normal pace. Someone who runs a 4.6-second 40, for example, is pulled

at a 3.7-second clip. "After four or five weeks," says Dintiman, chairman of physical education at Virginia Commonwealth, "people can take two- or three-tenths of a second off their time."

Dolan, a football coach at Randolph-Macon (Va.) College and the actual inventor of the machine, and Dintiman can't explain exactly how it works physiologically. "Some say there's a transfer of muscle fiber from slow-twitch muscles (commonly found in long distance runners) to fast-twitch (thicker fiber, found in top sprinters). We do know that the leg muscles contract faster after being forced to contract faster."

Eager to dismiss any allegations

of quackery, Dr. Dintiman admits there's nothing new about the concept behind Sprint Master. "Overspeed training has been around for years. In the Fifties, people used to grab hold of a bar and run behind cars. We've refined the idea and come up with a machine that allows an athlete to use a natural running motion."

The Sprint Master goes for \$995, but the hefty price tag didn't stop the Cowboys, the Bears and the University of Maryland from picking one up. Bears strength and conditioning coach Clyde Emrich gives it a thumbs-up, but notes it's not a device for



Dintiman, Dolan reel it in.

players with knee problems, veterans (more prone to muscle pulls) or already gifted runners. "They're already close to their genetic potential. Besides, a guy like Willie Gault would probably outrun the rope."

SEDALE: MOVE OVER, SAMPSON

Though Ralph Sampson will probably walk away with rookie of the year honors this season, scouts say the most explosive rookie in the NBA this year is sitting on the 76ers' bench.

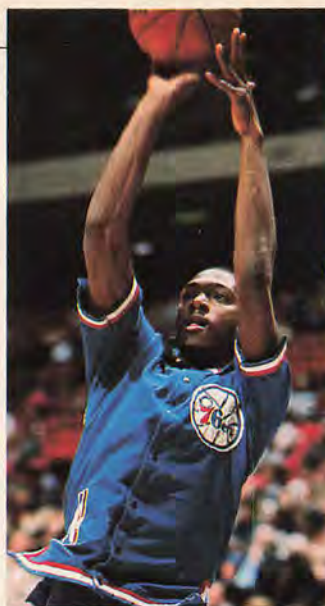
No one seemed to notice when the Sixers took Sedale Threatt, a 6-2 guard from tiny West Virginia Institute of Technology, in the sixth round (139th pick overall) in this year's draft. But Threatt (pronounced *threet*), described by those who've seen him play as the second coming of Earl Monroe, was such a dominating player in the summer leagues and in training camp that he became the first sixth-round pick to make the roster of a world championship team.

It's not like the Sixers were hurting in the backcourt, either, so cracking the roster was a difficult task. "It's all how you see things," says Sedale. "In the NBA's eyes, I was a sixth-round pick. In my

eyes, I was a first-rounder. The only difference between me and the guys taken in the first round was that more people had seen them play. But my father explained to me that the only guarantees are in the first round, and from two through 10 it's what you make of it."

Jack McMahon, director of Sixer personnel, spotted Threatt eating his opponents alive at the Portsmouth (Va.) Invitational. "I saw a wild, out-of-control kid flying up and down the court with his shirttail out. What I liked was he could get from point A to point B whenever he wanted to."

Coach Billy Cunningham says Sedale's bad habits, like an unusually high dribble, were not hard to break. "He'd love to spin and go, shake and bake and have people standing and cheering. But to succeed at this level, you need patience, concepts and understand-



Fleet Threatt's a real treat.

ing. And he's developing in those areas."

But when a game is out of reach, look for Cunningham to let Threatt loose—and don't say we didn't warn you.

TRIVIA



Nixon: Len is not a crook.

President Ronald Reagan will undoubtedly call the winning Super Bowl coach to offer his congratulations. But even the Gipper won't be delivering a message as important as the one phoned in by the first president to call a Super Bowl team, Richard Nixon.

On January 6, 1970, five days before Super Bowl IV between the Chiefs and Vikings, NBC newscasters Chet Huntley and David Brinkley broke this story: Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson was under investigation by the Justice Department in connection with the case of Donald Dawson (no relation), a sports gambler.

The swell of attention forced Dawson into seclusion and put a dark cloud over the Chiefs' hopes.

But just before the team boarded the bus for Tulane Stadium, coach Hank Stram got a phone call from the White House.

"Coach," said Nixon to Stram, "I know there is nothing to the rumors your team was involved in earlier this week. I just wanted to tell the players, and Lenny Dawson in particular, to dismiss those rumors and go out there and play like champions."

The Chiefs won, 23-7, and Dawson was named the game's MVP. Weeks later, Dawson was cleared of any wrongdoing.

By the way, Nixon called Stram after the game to extend his congratulations. It was a six-minute call, which, with the weekend rate, cost the taxpayers \$2.68.

WHY IS THE CLEVELAND INDIAN SMILING?

Every aspect of the Cleveland Indians' organization is crying out for an overhaul, but the first order of business for the new ownership should be the unconditional release of their mascot, "Chief Wahoo," one of the more inflammatory team symbols in all sports.

The team name and logo were devised in 1915 in honor of Luis Francis Sockalexis, a Penobscot Indian who was the first native American to play in the majors.

But today's grinning mug of his namesake, with a wide-toothed grin, hooked nose and exaggerated reddish skin, is offensive. "Wahoo's degrading," says Jerome Warcloud, director of the Cleveland American Indian Center. "The huge, pointed head, those devilish eyes and that grin—it's an insult to our people."

The native Americans in Cleveland, led by Russel Means, filed suit against the team in 1970,

charging defamation and racial stereotyping. During the case, which dragged on for 13 years, the plaintiffs presented many alternative logos they considered less offensive. It was finally settled out of court last spring for what Warcloud calls "a small amount of money."

But the decent thing to do is to can Wahoo once and for all. The Tribe has been offensive enough on the field for too long.

TIPS

Everyone has his own idea of what makes the perfect Christmas gift; something that's practical, thoughtful, extravagant, off-the-wall, tasteful and cheap. For a real sports fan, nothing expresses the spirit of the season like a real sports gift. If you have a sports junkie in your life, we've got some gift ideas for you.

- Danny White's *Country cowBoy* LP (\$8.95, cassette \$9.95). The Dallas quarterback sings some soulful spirals like, "Let It Be Me," "You Got Me by the Heart," "Dixie" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." If you closed your eyes you could almost swear it was Elvis. Mail order only, from Grand Prix Records, 2158 Union Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

- Franco Harris Sleepwear. This isn't Frederick's of Hollywood, it's soft, fuzzy nightwear that comes in the Steelers colors of yellow and black. For men and women, available in retail stores everywhere.

- *The Mark May Hog Cookbook* (\$5.95). Just in time for your holiday meals, the Redskins' lineman unveils his collection of mouth-watering main dishes, including the *piece de resistance*, Hog Balls. The recipe combines cheddar cheese, buttermilk baking mix and ground pork sausage. These tempting hors d'oeuvres pop out of the oven in 20 minutes, "guaranteed," says May, "to put your backfield in motion." The cookbook is available from Super Hogs Inc., 4590 McArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

- If money is no object, then you'll want Lyle and Glenn Blackwood "Bruise Brothers" lithographs of all your favorite Miami Dolphins (drawn by an artist, hand-signed by the players and marketed by the Blackwoods). A steal at \$300 each.

- Move over, Mr. T, Wayne Gretzky is this year's Mr. Merchandise. The ever-popular Edmonton Oiler now adorns a watch, lunch box and bedding. There's a Wayne Gretzky mural (six-and-a-half feet square), a Gretzky telephone (\$18) and calculator (\$8.50) on the shelves of retail stores. But newest of all is the Wayne Gretzky doll by Mattel (\$10.50). It comes complete with home and away uniforms, dress sweats and a tuxedo. Now that's class.

Rum. It's What's Happening.

America is switching from vodka and gin to Puerto Rican white rum. It's happening in Monterey and everywhere else.



After a round on the fabulous Pebble Beach course, there's nothing like a refreshing white rum and tonic. Just ask Cypress Point's Jim Langley and Johnny Pott of Carmel Valley Ranch.



A pre-brunch white rum Bloody Mary at the scenic Big Sur digs of Will and Carol Surman.



Monterey residents Kenneth and Virginia Bartlett with smiles all around and rum on the rocks.



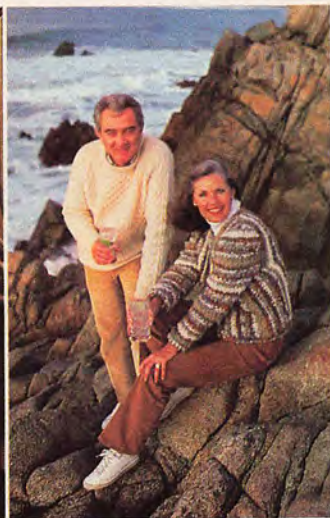
After a lively doubles match, Tricia Allioti, Theresa Briant, Maureen Duffy and Vance Killen pause for rum screwdrivers. Seen with Pebble Beach Tennis Club Pro Andy Briant.



Imagine savoring a rum and tonic on the running board of your own 1923 Rolls-Royce! Antique car collector Win Estes.



A party at Carmel's Atelier Galerie. Owner Sam Ehrenberg and Puerto Rican visitors Ricardo and Ingrid Jimenez. With white rum, of course.



Carmel attorney Don Hubbard and his wife Phyllis like white rum with their whitecaps.



Puerto Rican white rum has a smoothness vodka or gin can't match. Because it's aged one full year—by law.



Airline executive Norm Edwards and his wife Jackie take a rum and tonic along on a Saturday afternoon stroll.

RUMS OF PUERTO RICO
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Newport

*After all,
if smoking isn't a pleasure,
why bother?*



Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

Box: 16 mg. "tar", 1.1 mg. nicotine; Kings: 17 mg. "tar",
1.2 mg. nicotine; av. per cigarette, FTC Report March 1983.

SPORT INTERVIEW

He's been outspoken and heartbroken. Now he's ready for the toughest marathon of all.

Alberto Salazar

Alberto Salazar raced into the public consciousness three years ago, a fast talker and an even faster runner. After turning the 1980 New York Marathon into a runaway, he returned in 1981 with the nerve to predict a world record and the verve to deliver in two hours, eight minutes and 13 seconds. He ran his unbeaten streak up to four marathons by 1982 and then he ran himself into the ground.

The first hint that his career had hit the Wall came in Rotterdam last April, when he limped home fifth in a marathon that established Australian Rob de Castella as the 1984 Olympic favorite. The giveaway came in Helsinki four months later, when he wheezed in last in the 10,000-meter final at the inaugural World Championships. Those losses exposed Salazar's vulnerability, as a runner and as a person. "I think reality just hit him," says Molly Salazar, his wife of two years. "He realized that he wasn't as invincible as he thought. He's just a human being."

At 25, Alberto Salazar is still coming to grips with his own mortality. The Cuban-born, New England-raised son of an expatriate Castro aide realizes that he must properly channel his emotions. He has a quieter confidence now, though he is no less certain of reaching his goal: being remembered as the greatest distance runner in history. The fire burns just as fiercely within him as he begins his preparation for the coming Olympic confrontation, but he understands that it must be kept under control. Of course, for a man to whom running is something between a compulsion and an obsession, that may prove more difficult than racing 26 miles and 385 yards.

SPORT: When you went to Rotterdam last April—undefeated, the world's dominant marathoner—did you sense you might be heading for a fall?

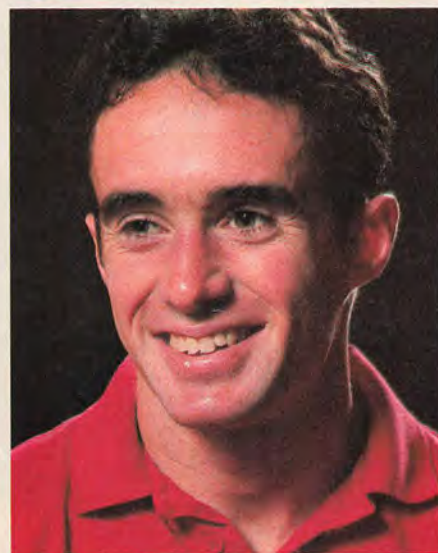
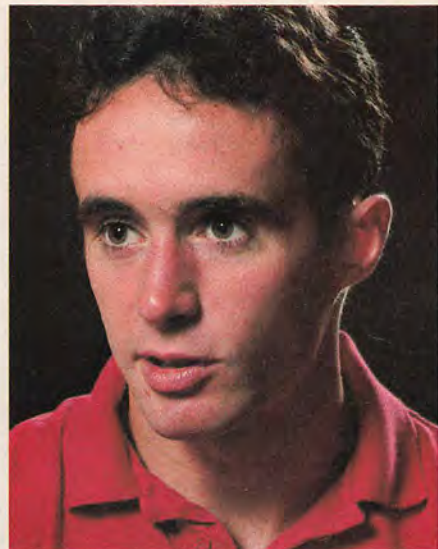
SALAZAR: Well, I knew I was taking a big chance in going, because I had this groin pull and it was off and on for two weeks before the race whether I was going to run. In the past I had gotten away with that sort of thing; in Boston I had a sore hamstring and in New York last year I had a sore foot. So I figured, "Is this race going to be any different? Am I going to chicken out just because Rob de Castella is in it?" But this time, the injury had developed to the point where I was no longer running the same; I was favoring one leg. In fact, after the race, the shoe on my bad leg was worn 20 times more than the other; it was worn down all the way. My foot was landing on the

outside and during the race my leg tightened up because of that. It sounds like an excuse, but it just confirmed to me that I wasn't running correctly.

So anyway, when I look back, it was probably stupid to run. But at the same time, I'm glad I didn't chicken out. Even though the leg wasn't good and people were saying, "Look, you have nothing to gain, all you can do is lose," I think it's better for me in the long run that I didn't just try and preserve my record by only going into really safe marathons when I was 100 percent.

SPORT: Then came the last-place finish in the 10,000 meters at the Helsinki games. You had never experienced two defeats like those before. What happened?

SALAZAR: It wasn't just a physical breakdown in terms of any one injury or the body being overloaded at any one



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Chevy Cavalier. The hottest-selling Chevrolet for a lot of good reasons. Hottest-selling because of some of the most advanced design and engineering you'll find on a front-drive car today. Hottest-selling because of high-level fit and finish, thanks to dedicated workers using computerized robots and lasers. Hottest-selling because Cavalier offers more horsepower and more sedan room than the three top-selling imports. Hottest-selling because of a cool, low price.

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Today's Chevrolet. Bringing you the cars and trucks you want and need. That's what Taking Charge is all about.

Some Chevrolets are equipped with engines produced by other GM divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliated companies worldwide. See your dealer for details.



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time. I think it was so much physical and mental stress that sooner or later, you start getting injuries or sicknesses. I hadn't been sick for two years, and then I had five or six colds in the last six months. After the New York Marathon last year, I had problems sleeping. I'd wake up four or five times a night. I was under a lot of stress. It wasn't so much stress from outside, just pressure that I was putting on myself, training and competing at such a high level year-round and never taking a break. A doctor I know who's the world's leading expert on stress told me that I had been at such a high stress level for so many years that I had depleted my adrenal glands and my endocrine system. I just had no adrenaline left. And he said that's why I was going out in those races and I was just flat. And, anyway, that's the way I felt.

SPORT: But your burnout was mental as well as physical?

SALAZAR: Last year, after New York, I was emotionally drained for 10 weeks or so; I was just shot.

I remember going out running three weeks afterward and just feeling so emotional I felt like crying. It was strange, it was just an overload.

SPORT: How did you deal with that overload?

SALAZAR: I worked with—and still am working with—a psychologist this year. He's helping me on some techniques, learning to deal with pressure and stress, and he's going to work with me on some more techniques, maybe self-hypnosis and some different things I can use in races and in my training.

Runners spend so much time training their bodies, but they're never really doing anything for the mind. He could see a lot of stress in my life. He said if, in your daily life, you have stress and pressures, that affects your athletic life at the same time. If you're uptight through the day, when you go out there to run, you're going to be uptight.

SPORT: How did being uptight first manifest itself?

SALAZAR: I used to think about running 24 hours a day, no matter what I was doing. Four hours before my training workouts I'd get stomach aches, diarrhea, everything. I'd have to take an antispasmodic pill to calm that down. This was four hours just before a workout! What kind of pressure is that? That just isn't healthy. Now, I try and go 100 percent while I'm doing that workout and disassociate myself from it in between.

SPORT: I understand you started going

up to a cabin on Lake Odell by yourself earlier this fall, just running and fishing alone. Was that good therapy?

SALAZAR: Well, I didn't catch one fish, but it was fun trying and relaxing. When I first moved to Oregon, I said, "Great, I'll go camping and fishing all the time." I used to love those things when I was growing up. I haven't gone camping once. I've gone fishing maybe three times. I can't go for three days because I've got to get a massage every two days, and I don't want to miss that. I've got to go lift weights. I've got to train four or five

"I used to think about running 24 hours a day. I'd have to take a pill four hours before a workout to calm down."

hours a day and do the interval workout three days a week. So I'm trying to get away from that trap, every once in a while just saying, "Oh, to heck with it. Who cares if I miss the workout? I'm going to go fishing or do this or that." And you're actually better off in the end, because you're relaxed and you come back to it with renewed freshness and you train better. But it's hard to get that into your mind. You think, "I can't miss out."

SPORT: Does it bother you that people—"running groupies," as you call them—have drastically changed their perception of your ability and chance to win an Olympic medal after one bad season?

SALAZAR: I can't say that it hasn't bothered me at all, but I recognize now that it shouldn't bother me. But I'm just surprised, and in a way, it's kind of humorous to me, you know, that I'm kind of seeing things in a clear light for the first time. All these people who were always patting me on the back, and all these magazines and stuff, saying how invincible I was, how great I was and everything. And now it's like I'm washed up, after one race, and they're all following Rob de Castella now. Like *The Runner* magazine—I hope you print this—I just can't believe how they built me up for so many years, how great I was, how I couldn't be beaten and so forth, and they believed that through Rotterdam. They had a staff writer at Rotterdam, and I heard he just made a fool of himself talking about how I was going to kick de Cas-

tella's ass, even during the race: "Ah, de Castella doesn't have a chance. He's going to get outsprinted." So it came down to the last three or four miles, and then I end up losing the race, okay? Afterward, I start reading these articles in *The Runner*, and they're saying how they had picked de Castella to win anyway, and now they're not even picking me to place in the top five in L.A. I just can't believe it, how—I don't know what the word is for it—how they just, you know, whoever's on top.

SPORT: Fickle.

SALAZAR: Even back in my hometown, the paper, the *South Middlesex News*, this guy there writes an article, and it's on Rob de Castella, it's after Helsinki. He plays up Rob de Castella big. He's great. He's a great runner. One of the greatest marathon runners of all time. Plays it up really big. But then he starts talking about Greg Meyer and myself, and he calls us "feast or famine marathoners." And I just couldn't believe it! You know, he's saying

that I'm erratic. So I called this guy up, and I didn't get mad or anything, but I just wanted to show him how stupid his argument was. "Okay, look, prior to Rotterdam I was four for four and had the world record. Now, at that time, you'd probably call me a pretty good marathoner." And he goes, "Yeah, you bet. You bet." "Okay, and then I ran one and I got fifth. And I ran 2:10 still. Now I'm a feast or famine marathoner?" And he goes, "Well, uh, uh, well," and he just didn't have anything to say.

SPORT: Still, you have rearranged your Olympic goals. You've basically given up your dream of doubling in the 10,000 meters and the marathon, subordinating your great love of the track for your greater chance at the gold.

SALAZAR: The Olympics is such a high-caliber competition. I'm not so conceited or big-headed or unduly confident that I think I can beat the best in the world in two events, that I can beat guys who are probably just as good as I am—say, a guy like de Castella, when he's fresh and I'm not fresh. Maybe someday I will be that good. But right now I feel that it's too risky, that I'm not quite there yet.

SPORT: And your preparation began right after Helsinki. From that point on, everything has been geared toward L.A.?

SALAZAR: Right. The Olympic marathon in Los Angeles can truly be said to be the best marathon. Everyone is there, and not only the whole world but the athletes themselves have said, "All right, for-

"How 2 months' salary
wound up on Julie's finger."



Take a look at Julie. No matter where we go, everyone does. So I wanted to get her the biggest diamond I could afford. One that other men could see without getting too close. Okay, now take a close look at the diamond. Sure, it's big, but it's also beautiful. Just like Julie. Now I'm not rich or anything. But I found out that 2 months' salary is about what a really nice diamond costs nowadays.

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get all that other stuff. This is it. This is number one. Whoever wins here is the top guy."

SPORT: You're not concerned that you may have given de Castella a big psychological advantage heading into Los Angeles?

SALAZAR: Well, I think it probably gives me a big advantage [laughs], because I know it's going to be a lot harder for him to beat me next time. I saw the way he ran that race, and I'm not terribly impressed. Obviously he's good. But I know what to expect from him, you know? He's just going to try and run you into the ground the last three or four miles. That's what I feel is going to be the deciding factor in L.A., who can really kick it in at the end. And that's something you can train for, just run more miles, get stronger.

SPORT: How do you train for the Los Angeles smog?

SALAZAR: Get in your garage [laughs]. You don't. I've read a lot of literature on it already. And by training in the smog you just make yourself worse, so I think you just basically stay away from it as much as possible, and just get there right before. But I will definitely go somewhere to train for the heat in L.A. I'm going to train with the idea that it's going to be 85-90 degrees and humid during the Olympic marathon. If it turns out to be a 70- or 75-degree day, great. But if it comes out to be one of those other days, I'm going to be ready. A lot of people aren't going to be ready.

One thing that bothers me, though, is that the Olympic trials and the finals are only 10 weeks apart. Now, they've done testing on me where they've done a muscle biopsy and examined it on their electron microscope and they found that it takes 10 or 11 weeks—at the minimum—for the muscles to repair themselves after a marathon. But it can take up to 20 weeks. It's just not enough time.

SPORT: To put so much emphasis on one race, to put all your eggs in this one basket, so to speak, must make a possible loss in Los Angeles very hard to accept.

SALAZAR: Well, obviously there's no way I'm not going to be disappointed if I don't do well, if I don't win a medal or something. There's got to be some natural disappointment there. But I really think that as long as I'm doing it for the right reasons, I'm doing the best I can, and as long as I feel I'm doing it in a way that God approves of, that ultimately I've got to accept it and be happy with whatever happens. Though I may not be able

to understand at the time.

SPORT: Were you able to see that at Rotterdam, when you lost for the first time?

SALAZAR: It wasn't really that bad. Although I'm very competitive and I hate losing, in a way it was kind of a relief to finally lose one, and to be able to handle it. The world didn't end.

SPORT: Bill Dellinger, your coach since your undergraduate days at Oregon, once said: "Alberto is very modest, but he's also honest, and sometimes his honesty walks all over his modesty." Since you've always been outspoken and you've made

"I have the advantage—I know it's going to be a lot harder for Rob de Castella to beat me in the Olympics."

predictions in the past that have led some to characterize you as cocky, did that make it harder to lose?

SALAZAR: I knew that a lot of people considered me cocky and they wanted to see me finally lose. They would have loved to see me crawl. And so, the first thing I thought after I crossed that finish line was, "Okay, you're going to show everybody that you have class now that you've lost." So I just really forced myself to be a good sport, even though I was very upset about the race.

You know, I look on adversities or setbacks as a chance to show people what I'm really made of. That's why I look at this last year as a great opportunity for me for this year. Whether I beat de Castella or whether he beats me, I think I'm going to be much better off exemplifying good sportsmanship and good Christian life on my way to trying to win a gold medal than if I just become an egotistical runner with only one thing in mind, winning the gold medal, who doesn't care how he gets it as long as he gets it in the end.

SPORT: At one point, did you think you were headed in that direction?

SALAZAR: Yeah, I think so. Starting from when I was in high school, until I became a born-again Christian [about five years ago] that was my goal. It wasn't like I was going to go out and kill my grandmother or something [laughs], or go steal to become a good runner. But I was prepared to sacrifice everything for running.

Running was my god. Not that I'm not still obsessed with running, but I just have other high priorities.

SPORT: Speaking of priorities, a great number of American distance runners seem to be letting financial considerations dictate their racing schedules. Did you fall into that and did it contribute to the burnout you experienced?

SALAZAR: I don't think the money has ever affected me at all. In fact, I know it hasn't. My problem was that I wanted to do everything, all the top races. And you just can't do that. Nobody can keep themselves at that peak year-round, forever. And I did it for three years.

SPORT: When you've been asked about accepting under-the-table money in the past, you've candidly said things like, "Every top runner has accepted money under the table," but stopped short of mentioning yourself specifically. Even though the amateur code has been liberalized by the world and national ruling bodies [IAAF and TAC], you've become reluctant to talk dollars and cents.

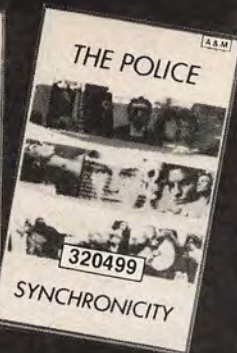
SALAZAR: You're just opening yourself up to the possibility of some international pressure. Who knows? Maybe the Soviets would like to discredit our Olympic program any way they can. They may say, "Hey, look, we're not competing if so and so competes, because, look, they said right here that they received this money under the table, and that's against IAAF rules." So I'll never admit to that. I'll just say, "No, look, I'm working by the TAC guidelines."

But at this point, running is evolving so fast with athletes being allowed to do advertisements and endorsements and being sponsored by companies—like I am by Kodak and Timex and P. Leiner [a vitamin company] and, of course, Nike—that running races is now secondary in terms of financial support. I can now pick races not on the basis of finances, but only on the basis of what's best for my training, and what races I feel are prestigious and good for my ultimate career.

SPORT: Just for the record, will you tell us what your annual income from these various sources is?

SALAZAR: No, I'd rather not. Even though all my stuff is allowed now by the TAC and amateur rules, the public still has this value system where they'd rather see the athlete as the pure, idealistic amateur. They'd rather have me living on 10 grand a year and starving and running and training my butt off just for the pure idealism of the sport, and not be receiv-

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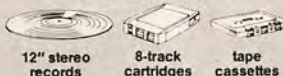
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ing any compensation. And I would be doing that, if that's the way you had to do it. I was running and training just as hard, with just as much intensity, the same goals—someday winning an Olympic gold medal and being a world record holder—before I ever had any idea that there would someday be money involved in it. So that's just been a blessing that has come along at a later time. That has never been the motivating force, from day one, of when I started running. When I was 13 or 14 years old, I was as competitive as I am now, and just as goal oriented, and wanted to be the best distance runner in the world.

SPORT: That is your ultimate goal, to be remembered as the best distance runner of all time?

SALAZAR: Well, I'd like that, but along with that is using my running to share my faith. And that's even more important. And if being the best distance runner of all time was going to mean that I couldn't be a good Christian, well, then I'd have to sacrifice that. But my goal is to be the best

runner I can possibly be and still be a good Christian example at the same time.

SPORT: I know it's hard to look past '84, but you have talked about hanging on through '88, when you'll be at your physical peak and more likely to achieve a marathon-10,000 Olympic double.

SALAZAR: Oh, I'm sure I'll be running, and running competitively, even longer than that. But once it starts to decline, I'm sure that at that point I'm going to start changing. Take, for instance, a guy like Bill Rodgers. I think he could still be among the top three or four marathoners in the world if he just raced a lot less, just picked and chose a few races. I'd rather do that, cut back on my races as I get older, and just keep a few at the top there. But eventually, when I can't even do that without a decline in performance, then I'm going to hang it up.

I'm sure I'll always be involved in running. I'd like to coach someday. But to me, my motivation is to try to be the best in the world, and, you know, once that's gone, then I think I'll still run for enjoyment, but I don't think you run 20 miles a day for enjoyment. I think I'll run five miles a day.

SPORT: Looking back on it—not that it's over—but, why do you think that you gravitated toward or chose to specialize in the marathon?

SALAZAR: Well, I think being the best marathoner in the world—and I'm not saying it just because I may possibly be the best—is the toughest test of somebody.

I don't care what other event, whether it's the mile, or five or 10, a marathoner's got to work harder than any other runner. He's got to work harder both in training and in the race to be the best. You always hear people say, "Well, in the intermediate hurdles or the mile, you hurt just as much or more at the end of that race." But that's bull. The marathon, you've still got to sprint at the end, plus you've got those other two hours that you've already been running before that.

SPORT: But isn't the marathon also a test of wills, as demanding mentally as it is

"The public would rather see me running and training my butt off for nothing. And I would if I had to."

physically?

SALAZAR: Yeah, it is. I think it really gets at the core of a runner. If you've got any faults, in terms of if you're not tough mentally or physically, it's going to show up by the time you've run two hours and eight minutes. You have a lot longer to question yourself, and your desire to continue on, to really try and win.

SPORT: People who have seen you push yourself to the absolute limit—collapsing at the 1978 Falmouth (Mass.) Road Race, when your body temperature rose to 106 degrees and you were given the last rites, and in the 1982 Boston Marathon, when your temperature dropped to 88 degrees—are astounded by your relentless determination. Do you consider your willpower a great advantage?

SALAZAR: That's what a lot of people have said, but I can't say, "Hey, I'm tougher than anybody else. I know I can take more." How do I know that? I don't know what's going on in their minds. A lot of times in races I feel like I'm on the verge of getting broken, like somebody's about to beat me. You know, like I'm thinking, "Oh, geez, I can't hold on much longer. I can't hold on." Like in Boston, "Gee, I've got seven miles to go and my legs are dead. I can't hold on." And I'm thinking like that, but yet I just still refuse to let go. It's just that one little thread. It's like I'm giving up on all fronts, but "Aw, damn it! No, I'm not going to. I'm not going to let them get away." And I don't know. Maybe that's

the difference. Maybe it just comes down to that one little shred, that one little thread of determination is left, whereas in other people, maybe they don't have it. I just think to myself, "I'm not going to let them beat me."

SPORT: You have mellowed, though, to the extent where you're doing things like this interview. Are you just more comfortable being a public figure now or is it also a realization that in your business, track and field, you more or less have to promote yourself?

SALAZAR: I know that I should promote myself, but I'm never going to promote myself to the degree where I feel it's infringing on my own personal life or beliefs. Where my gut feeling isn't, "Yeah, let's do it," the business part of me isn't going to overrule that and say, "Wait a second. You should do this because it's going to be good for you financially." I'm never going to take that viewpoint. I'm going to try and be polite to people, but if I just don't feel like doing an appearance or

an interview, I'm going to say no.

SPORT: Are you concerned about your public image?

SALAZAR: Well, you want to have a good image. And I realize that I had somewhat of a bad image in the last few years, because I just refused to talk to the press and I've probably been rude about it sometimes. And I guess, you know, that a lot has been said that I'm some big money grubber or something like that. But money really means nothing, that's not the American dream to me, and I'm not going to alter my personality just to come off better in public. I'm not going to try to act like Bill Rodgers, the outgoing guy who talks to every single interviewer and so forth. I'm just not like that.

SPORT: What are you like?

SALAZAR: I guess I'm shy, and I don't like to be stared at. I get embarrassed. I didn't like going out. A lot of times, we'd want to go get a pizza at our favorite restaurant, and I'd always make my wife go and get it and leave me at home. I didn't want to go in because everybody'd be looking at me. And I felt really self-conscious about it. Now, it's getting to the point where I just don't notice it as much, or it doesn't bother me as much.

SPORT: Well, now that you do have the forum of this interview, is there anything else that you'd like to say?

SALAZAR: Yes. Everything I've just told you is BS. You've got to start all over [laughs]. Actually, the reason I run is for the money [laughs]. ★

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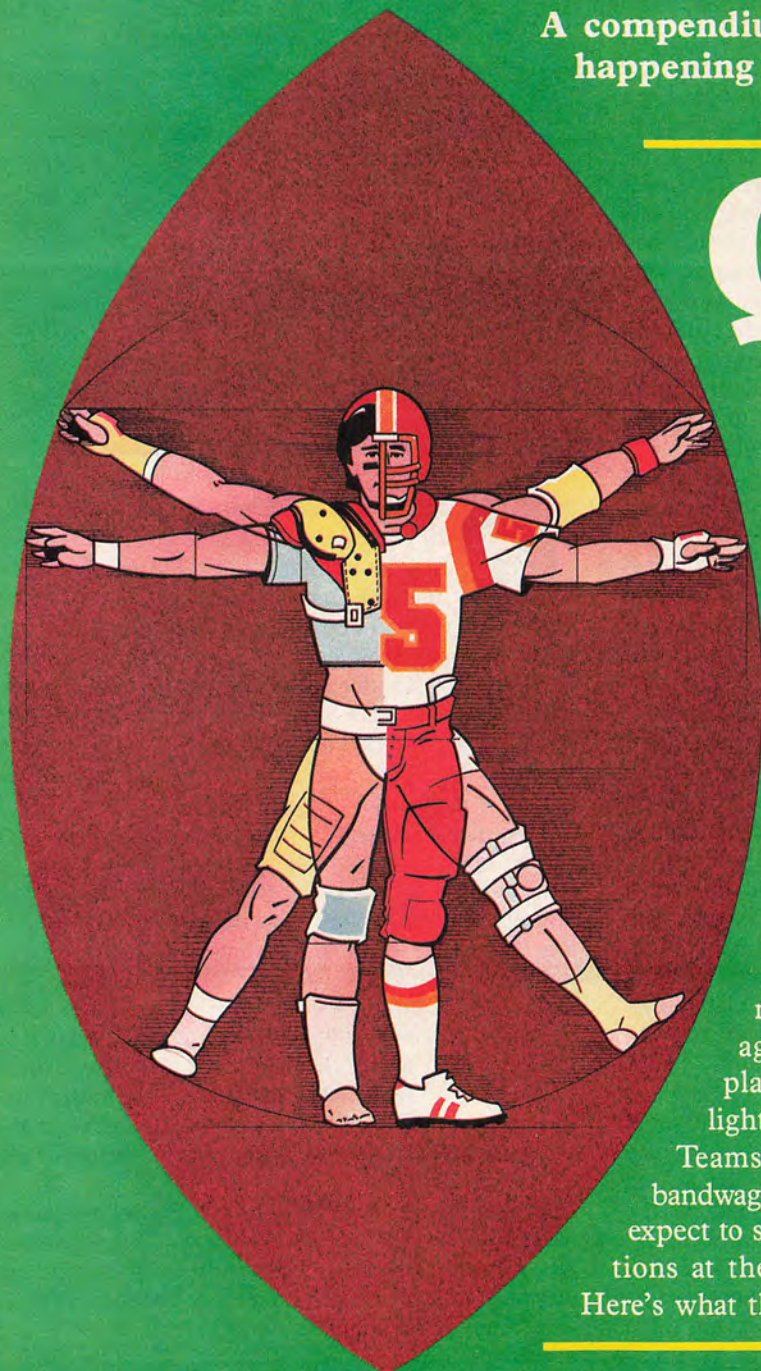
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THE NEW PRO FOOTBALL ALMANAC

A compendium from A to Z of what's happening in the NFL-and what's not.



Quantum mechanics has come to the NFL. Trends no longer evolve, they jump. They explode. The rule changes of the late Seventies not only sped up the game, they sped up the game within the game. To coach successfully in the NFL this season is to be able to spot a trend by halftime, react to it by the fourth quarter and have it in your own game plan next week. A fan needs more help. So let this be your guide.

If one thing stands out from this season, it is that defenses, with their overshifted fronts, weakside disrupters and combo zones, are forcing the action against offenses, with their H-backs, packages and sight-adjusted hot receivers. Defenses are making more big plays and, in their desperate aggressiveness, giving up more big plays. Either way, the scoreboard's a light show.

Teams succeed in the NFL by leading bandwagons, not hopping on them, so you can expect to see the mothers of this year's inventions at the forefront of this year's playoffs. Here's what they're doing.

by Kevin Lamb

AUDIBLES: Many of them are inaudible now. They're called "sight adjustments," and they're built into a pass play. "The trend," says Washington quarterback Joe Theismann, "is to have your quarterback read on the run, after the snap."

The defense has to telegraph its coverage scheme right after the snap, if not before. The receivers and quarterbacks pick up the coverage, and the receiver adjusts his route accordingly.

That was not necessary when defenses rarely strayed from two basic zones or from man-to-man coverage. But now there's a much greater variety of coverages for an offense to read and react to. (See *Man-to-Man and Combo*)

So, Redskin tight end Don Warren doesn't need to hear anything to know his route becomes a short post when the safety creeps up to blitz.

BURNERS: Philadelphia coach Marion Campbell calls the new sprinters at wide receiver "bullets" because they can shoot open a game on any play. Even when they don't catch the ball, they force defenses to spread out, opening more of the field to their teammates. That was why the 49ers took a chance with 110-meter hurdle star Renaldo Nehemiah last year. That was why the Packers traded for John Jefferson in 1981 when they already had James Lofton. That was why they drafted Phillip Epps, who ran the second-fastest 200 meters in the world last year.

Speed was fairly useless without strength until the rulebook made pass coverage a hands-off proposition. Receivers became

free to run and defensive backs became required to run. So, while trackmen Willie Gault, Ron Brown, Henry Ellard and Darryl Wilson were being claimed as wide receivers in the first two rounds last April, Washington made a first-round choice of undersized Darrell Green to cover them. In his first game, Green pulled Tony Dorsett down from behind.

Gault of the Bears (at left) has made the biggest flash of the rookie burners, catching touchdown passes of 56, 57 and 72 yards in the first half of the season alone. "Track training teaches you to keep everything going forward in your body instead of wasting a lot of motion," Gault says. "There's no better training during the off-season."



COMPUTERS: A computer sorts out miles and miles of film. Coaches feed it information about every play an opponent has run in its last three to six games, and the computer spits it back, nicely catalogued into the opponent's tendencies. What are the Cowboys likely to do from a strong-right pro set on third-and-five? The computer gives the answer, and the defense lines up accordingly.

This declassification of tendencies has bred more and more men in motion, to disguise offensive formations. It has bred situation substitutions. It has increased the value of the extra tight end with its many new formations, thereby making tendencies harder to spot. (See *Packages*)

Coach Bill Walsh of the 49ers has devised the best way to beat the computer. He begins a game by going down a list of 15 or 20 plays, regardless of the down-and-distance circumstances. He calls it "scripting." They tell him things he wants to know about how the defense might react all game. Also, those plays disguise his tendencies. The computer can reveal what he tends to call on second-and-10, but it can't say whether he called it because it was the eighth play on his script.

DANCING: Lynn Swann was the first to prove a football player could practice ballet without the hair falling off his chest. In the last two years, several Green Bay Packers became sold on ballet's value for conditioning and flexibility. The latest fad, aerobic dancing, was part of the training programs of the Rams (below) and Seahawks this year. "Just another way to get tired," says linebacker Bob Bruenig of the Cowboys.



EXTRA TIGHT END: H-back is what Atlanta calls the second tight end in its one-back offense. The Los Angeles Rams call him a U-back. Dallas calls him a Rover, the most appropriate designation because he goes all over the field. The way teams are winning with two tight ends, he'll be all over the NFL before long.

Washington became the marketing agent of the one-back offense by winning the Super Bowl with it last season. In some minds, it is to the Eighties what the T-formation was to the Forties. Like the T, the one-back or "ace" is just another wrinkle until the man in motion is added.

That man is usually the second tight end (See diagram). He can go toward the center, away from the center or both ways. He can go clear across the field. By moving, he can create a favorable matchup, force the defense to divulge its coverage scheme, change the offense's strong side, keep the defense guessing as to which of myriad formations the offense is using (See *Packages*) or simply create a moment's hesitation, as happened when Don McNeal slipped following the Redskins' motion on John Riggins' Super Bowl-winning touchdown run.

The second tight end can wind up close to the interior lineman, close to the sideline or in between, where San Diego ordinarily launches Kellen Winslow. He can be on or off the line of scrimmage.

He is different from the tight end, just as a small forward in basketball is different from a power forward. Cleveland's Ozzie Newsome and Atlanta's Junior Miller were playing out of position until their teams adopted the one-back offense and switched them from tight end to second tight end. The second tight end doesn't even have to be a tight end. The Rams and the Bears use fullbacks. The blocking assignments are similar to a fullback's, but the angles are better, mainly because the second tight end's motion gives him a head of steam against a defender tak-

ing his first step. He is particularly useful in helping out against roving weakside linebackers. (See *Taylor, Lawrence*)

For passes, the advantage is a fourth receiver near the line of scrimmage. There is less blitz protection with one back, but as Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe points out, it's less neces-



Twin Tight Ends: H-back right and behind first TE.

sary. "Your hot receiver [sight-adjusted primary receiver against a blitz; (See *Audibles*)] is right on the line, where he's more of a threat than from the backfield." The extra receiver up front is also a nice complement to the quicker developing patterns that are gaining popularity.

"That's where the future is," says Sid Gillman, the long-time coaching innovator. "These coaches who are still running full-back slants with two backs in the backfield have lost it."

FIVE-MAN LINE: Ever since holding was legalized for pass-blockers, pass-rush strategies have undergone a process of natural selection. Defenses juggle as many as 10 different fronts, or alignments of linemen (See *Undershift/Overshift*), and the five-man defensive line looks like a comer.

Chicago used it first in 1978. After the Bears used it for a whole game to upset San Diego in 1981, Cincinnati beat the Chargers with it, too. Then last year, Pittsburgh became the first team to make five linemen its basic pass-defense front, and the Steelers vaulted from last to second in sacks in two years. This year New Orleans, Houston and Dallas have joined the five-man line disciples.

"If you think you're going to line up four defensive linemen these days and get to the quarterback, you're wrong," says Houston coach Chuck Studley. "You've got to have either an overpowering player or a gimmick if you're going to get to the quarterback."

The five linemen don't all necessarily rush. Dallas might have defensive end Ed Jones "spying" a back, to cover him if he goes into the pass pattern, which he was doing when he intercepted a pass downfield against the Raiders earlier this year. The advantage of five linemen is the offense doesn't know which four are coming. (See *Taylor, Lawrence*) It has to keep one back out of the pattern for blitz protection because every pass-blocker is covered by a defensive lineman.

GEAR: Health fads run through the NFL like stewed prunes, particularly when they involve healthy knees. The Anderson Knee Stabilizer already has had dramatic impact in reducing injuries at major colleges, like Southern Cal—which requires linemen to wear it for protection. Chicago is convinced; it believes one play would have put tackle Keith Van Horne out for the season if not for

the Anderson brace. It is a metal hinge, which snaps into place with Velcro tabs, and its \$35-\$40 cost is less than one-tenth that of the Lenox Hill De-rotator worn by Joe Namath.

HIGH FIVES: There is a school of thought, parochial no doubt, that says teams will play better if they do not raise hell in the end zone and do wear coats and ties on team flights. The Cowboys' terrific start, after their well-publicized ban on spiking and their Spartan training camp, already has brought coaches flocking toward this philosophy. When Denver was 2-3, coach Dan Reeves instituted a coat-and-tie rule and forbade napping at lunchtime and goofing off at practice, after which the Broncos won four in a row. Many of the rookie coaches like that style.

What offends purists most about spiking and back-flipping and ostentatious high-fiving is the way they seize an individual spotlight after a touchdown made possible by teammates. More tolerable is the tribal dance, which Washington's Fun Bunch (at right) originated last year and some Rams have done on occasion this year.



INCOMPLETE PASSES: They don't happen much anymore. Halfway through the season, the NFL had a collective completion percentage of 58.2, a record pace. The main reason for this trend is the popularity of ball-control passing games.

The trend has given significance to an odd statistic: first downs passing per pass attempt. After all, the object of ball-control passing is to make first downs. Just last year, it was pretty good for a team to make first downs on one-third of its passes. But 14 teams had exceeded that figure at midseason, led by Green Bay at a whopping 44.1 percent.

JAMMING: When the NFL first prohibited hitting, or "chucking," a receiver more than five yards downfield, defenses made sure to get in the licks they were allowed, jamming receivers at the line (See illustration). That doesn't happen so much anymore. For one thing, receivers go in motion more often, which makes them harder



WR in a Jam: Off route, if not his feet.

to jam. Then there's the decline in zone coverages, which had provided backup help if a cornerback missed his jam.

Mainly, though, defensive backs have found they're in better position to intercept a pass if they simply try to stay between the receiver and his hip pad. So they use a "tailgating"

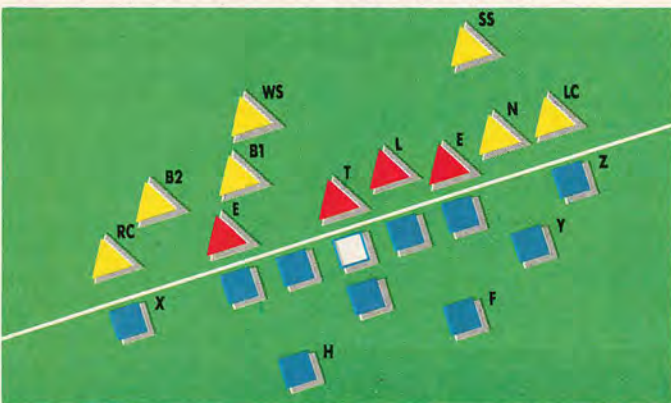
technique. Raider cornerback Lester Hayes is one of the best at lining up on top of a receiver and simply running with him. Jamming these days is used more as a detour, routing a receiver into coverage, than as a steamroller, flattening him.

KEYS: Joe Theismann sees Cowboy nickel back Ron Fellows edging toward the line—a classic blitz key—his first inclination is to call an audible. But what if Fellows is faking a blitz? “Then you’ve got two guys running a pattern and six guys covering,” Theismann says. “So what you do sometimes is pretend to call an audible. If they believe you’ve made a blitz adjustment, they won’t send anyone.” (See *Audibles*)

Some keys endure despite all the motion now. Defenses still can rely on the weakside tackle to tell them—by either driving forward or stepping back at the snap—whether a run or pass is coming.



LONG YARDAGE: It's as if all the NFL's offensive coordinators scratched their heads in unison and decided to stop banging them against the wall. They stopped waiting for third down to unleash their nickel defenses, which used to mean five defensive backs but now often mean six, and in the case of Philadelphia, a 3-1-7 alignment (See diagram). Even with passing mandated by the rules, it is not easy to throw into a sea of six defensive backs. What's easy is to run on all those little squirts.



3-1-7: Extra deep backs (B1, B2, Nickel), one LB.

So teams are running in long-yardage situations. (See *Quick Trap*) Eric Dickerson of the Rams ran for first downs in the following situations in a single game: third-and-11, third-and-six, third-and-five, second-and-seven, third-and-four and third-and-six. All six are conventional passing situations. Teams are running so much, in fact, they're also using play-action passes, just as they might on first down or third-and-one. That is why, through the first half of the season, rushing yards accounted for a larger percentage of total yards than they did last year, after declining every year since 1978. But it's hard to say the pendulum is swinging back again to rushing. Passes accounted for 62 percent of the NFL's offensive touchdowns halfway through this season, up from 54 percent last year.

The Coaches File: How the Best

Don Shula, Miami. In the early Seventies, the Dolphins dominated pro football with a cerebral quarterback and a powerful running game that controlled the ball for the months of December and January. Last season Shula nursed his team to the Super Bowl with a Brand X quarterback, David Woodley, who was ineffective against the top defenses. So Shula relied on defense and on fullback Andra Franklin to keep the chains moving and to give that defense a rest.

Smart, disciplined defense remains the strength of this team. But Shula's main interest is in the offense, where he is the king of the eight-minute drive. By nature, he is a ball-control coach, but expect him to be uncharacteristically bold in this year's playoffs. First, because Franklin has had a bad shoulder all season that limits his ability to contribute. And second, because he has Dan Marino.

Marino is the first quarterback Shula has coached since he had Johnny Unitas at Baltimore who completes over 70 percent of his passes in practice. On the day Marino first started last October, the Dolphins lost to Buffalo in Miami, but Shula was almost giddy over his new quarterback.

Shula will pull the trigger in big games, as he did with the famous flea-flicker—Strock to Harris to Nathan—in the AFC playoff game two years ago against San Diego. With sprinting wide receiver Mark Duper, and Marino, Shula will be more willing to pull the trigger now.

Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh. For the first time in the Noll era, the Steelers will probably head into the playoffs without Terry Bradshaw at quarterback. Surprisingly, that may suit Noll.

In the first place, he is no longer enamored of Bradshaw. Last season the TV camera caught the coach cuffing Terry across the face mask in a moment of sideline exasperation. This year, when Bradshaw returned to Louisiana each weekend because of his elbow surgery instead of staying to counsel his replacement, Cliff Stoudt, Noll sniffed, “If he isn't

playing quarterback, he is of no use to us.”

In the second place, Noll sees himself essentially as a teacher. The inexperienced Stoudt and his equally inexperienced receivers could bring out the best in the coach.

As a strategist in the playoffs, he is unpredictable. In Super Bowl XIII, after using the Steelers' normal offense almost all season, he became the first coach to exploit fully the then-new liberalized



Shula: Maestro with Marino.

passing rules. Opponents have to expect the unexpected from him.

Noll has an excellent pass-rushing defense and it should be flying in the playoffs. However, his young passing offense is untested under playoff pressure. So Noll will probably depend on running and short passing in the playoffs more than on the old downfield theatrics. Especially if Franco Harris is still fresh. Expect Noll to rely on him heavily in the big games.

But also expect the unexpected.

Tom Landry, Dallas. This season was a crusade for Landry. Frustrated because of three consecutive finishes as the NFC runner-up, Landry has been talking Super Bowl since training camp. That's very unusual for him. He went to the extreme of grading each regular-season game on the basis of a Super Bowl. He approached each game as if it were a tune-up.

As varied as his offense is during the season, Landry is even wilder in the playoffs. He'll try anything. Remember Super Bowl XIII? On the opening drive against the Steelers, the Cowboys stayed exclusively on the ground and had a first down on the Pittsburgh 34. On the next play, Landry called for a double reverse. Drew Pearson fumbled the exchange from Dorsett and the

Brains Think in the Playoffs

Steelers recovered.

When the Cowboys met the Raiders this season, in a game that had all the tension of a playoff, Dallas' first touchdown was scored by quarterback Danny White, out



Landry: Man with a mission.

of the shotgun formation, on a pass from lefty fullback Ron Springs.

Landry calls those things his "exotics," and he refines them like a nutty professor. But his crusade mentality this season seems certain to lead him to open it up even more in the playoffs. Expect him to play more gambling defense, with more blitzing and more substitutions. And on offense, expect him to go for broke.

Bill Walsh, San Francisco. The head coaching job in the NFL for which Walsh lusted didn't materialize until he was 48. The long



Walsh: Master of surprise.

wait left him somewhat bitter, but also gave him a "what-have-I-got-to-lose-now?" approach.

Walsh is largely unknown as a playoff coach since he has in fact coached in only one NFL playoff season. But whatever he does is bound to include some surprises.

Much of the 49ers' Super Bowl crusade of two years ago was the result of Walsh's magnetic leadership, his personal drive. Few of the 49ers would claim that the roster contained superior personnel. Except for the addition of breakaway runner Wendell Tyler, the 1983 team is not much different.

This is another Walsh finesse team that he will direct with daring. An idea of his postseason style can be gotten from the winning drive against Dallas, late in the 1982 NFC championship game. Walsh outmaneuvered Tom Landry by doing something uncharacteristic for that '81 team, running the ball. Not only that, but Lenvil Elliott, a virtual reject, was the principal ballcarrier. As a bonus, Walsh called a reverse on one of the drive's killer plays.

Walsh is basically a passing coach. But with a weaker defense than two years ago, and with Tyler and Roger Craig in the backfield, he may rely more on his running game. But probably not in the pinch.

Joe Gibbs, Washington. Ever since the Redskins began winning in 1981, Gibbs has used the same strategies and approaches. There is little reason not to. Washington has been the most consistent NFL team for the last two years.

We might even expect more ball control than usual on offense, however, to keep the weakened defense off the field. The Redskins' pass defense, which ranked near the top of the conference last year, has been near the bottom all this season. Against playoff competition, Gibbs may try to compensate with more aggressiveness, particularly blitzing. Watch especially for linebacker Mel Kaufman, if he's healthy.

There was some preseason speculation that the Skins might suffer offensively after the loss of assistant head coach Dan Henning. But there was no drop in quality. The truth is that Gibbs himself is the catalyst behind almost everything that happens for the Redskins.

So expect to see the usual effective offense from Gibbs—lots of plays with men in motion; two tight ends in running situations; short passes to the backs, especially Joe Washington; and a heavy dose of John Riggins.

—Larry Felser

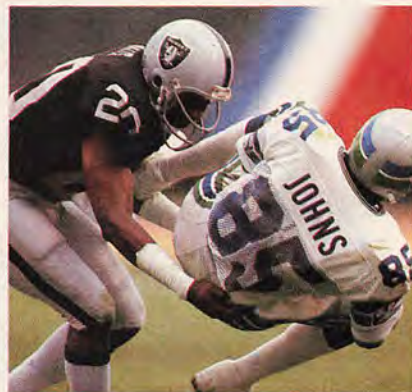
MAN-TO-MAN AND COMBO: Where a team used to play two kinds of zone defense, now it might have as many as 60, most of them combinations of man-to-man and zone. Give San Diego's Dan Fouts a pure zone and he'll know before the snap to which seam wide receiver Wes Chandler's sight adjustment will lead him. (See *Zones*) Since Fouts, like many quarterbacks, drops back only three or five steps before most passes, he can deliver Chandler the ball before a defender can react.

The most popular combo coverages employ man under and zone deep; they protect against the big play without rolling out a red carpet on the short pass routes. Philadelphia often plays cornerbacks Roynell Young and Herman Edwards and free safety Wes Hopkins in deep zones with the rest of the secondary covering man-to-man in front of them. But a combo coverage might also zone the strong side (that is, where the tight end lines up) and man the weak side. Or zone the sidelines and man the middle. Or put four defenders on three receivers on one side, three on two on the other.

There always will be a place for zone coverage. It remains prevalent on first down because it is more adaptable to stopping the run. A defender also has a better chance of picking off a pass if he isn't responsible for a particular receiver. But as the Raiders have shown over the years, man coverage is better at picking off a receiver. Intimidation.

Zone coverages don't even look much like zones anymore. Eagle linebacker Jerry Robinson might start out in a zone, but while a receiver is in his zone, Robinson's on him man-to-man, perhaps even beyond his zone.

Blitzing requires man coverage because five or six zones aren't enough. But it's hard to say which came first, more blitzing or more man coverage.



N O-HUDDLE OFFENSE: "Mainly it keeps the other team's nickel backs off the field," says quarterback Steve DeBerg of Denver, one of a growing number of teams to play without huddling in other than hurry-up situations. The Jets have used it to begin a game. It is a sensible answer to a defense's situation substitution of pass-rushers and coverage specialists.

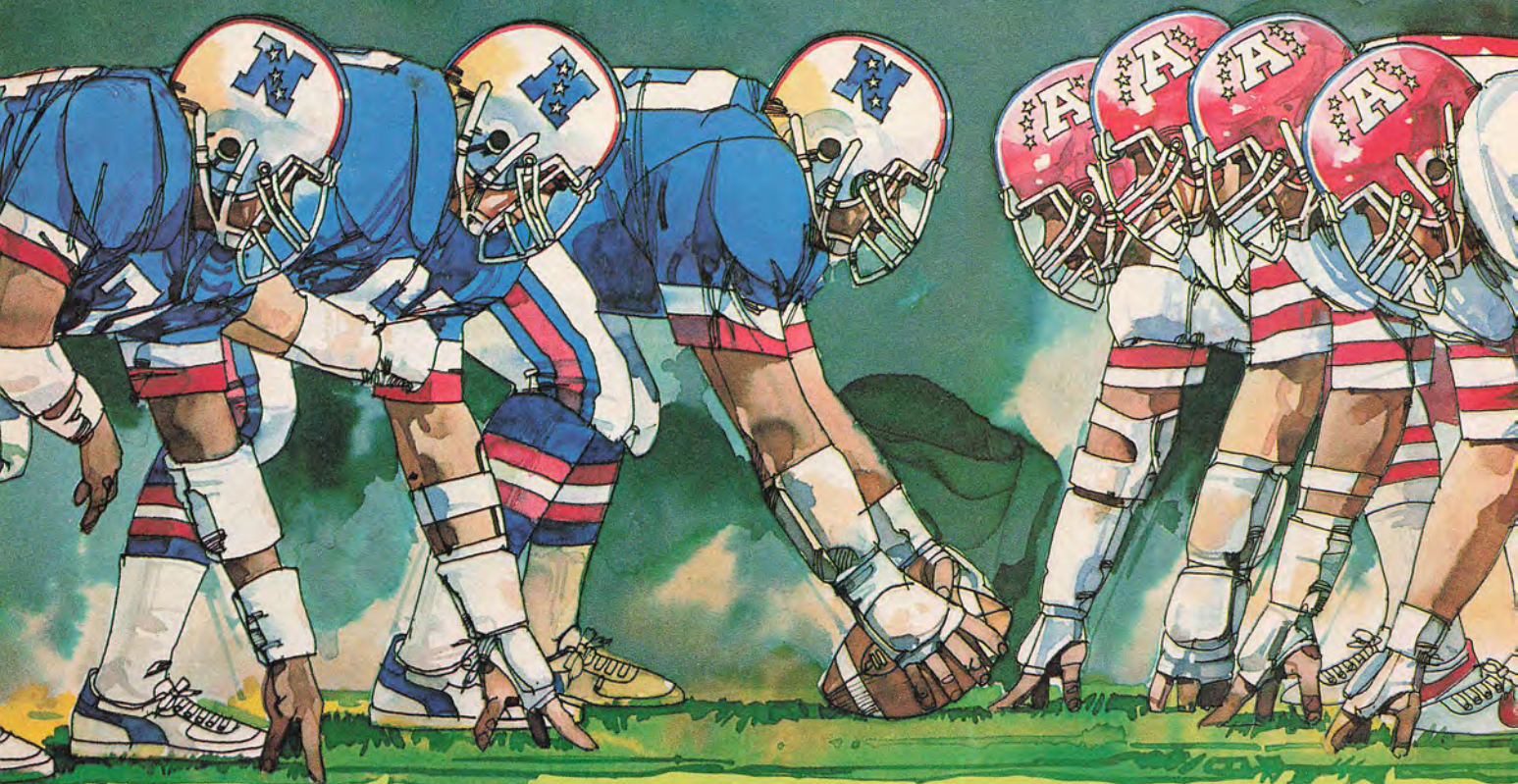
Minnesota takes a different tack. The Vikings huddle, giving the defense time to substitute. But once lined up, they shift people around, set quickly and go—before the defense has had time to adjust its multiple coverages to Minnesota's new formation.

OPTION PASSES: Raider halfback Marcus Allen threw six passes in 11 games this season. Three were complete, two for touchdowns. Letting someone besides the quarterback pass is a good way to avoid the growing pass-rush tide (See *Stunts, Splits and Sacks*), although Allen also was sacked twice. Kansas City had touchdown passes by Jewell Thomas and wide receiver Carlos Carson. Dallas fullback Ron Springs threw a TD pass against the Raiders. But the king of the option passers was Chicago's Walter Payton, who threw for two touchdowns in one game and added a third in his 10th game. On his second one, he found a secondary receiver.

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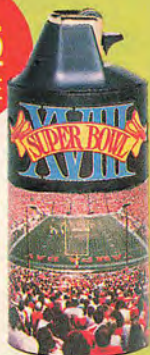
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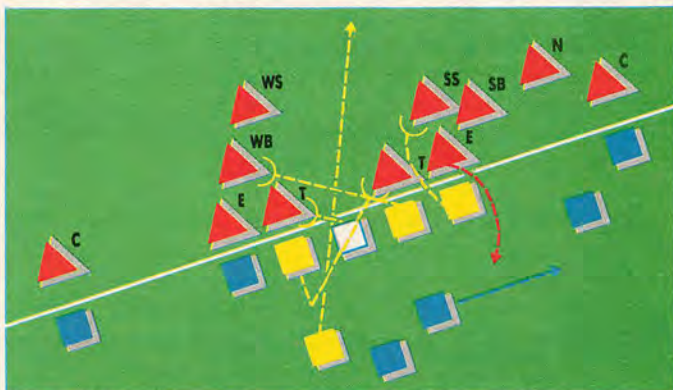
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PACKAGES: A one-back offense does not need many plays. (See *Extra Tight End*) Instead, it has many formations. "I'd say we have well over 500 formations," Redskin quarterback Joe Theismann says. Which means a single play can have a lot of different looks.

Even teams using two backs are expanding their use of formations to fool defenses. (See *Computers*) But there are more places to put a second tight end than to put a fullback. "That's the beauty of the one-back offense," Sid Gillman says. "You can package it in different sets. So your offense is simple. You don't change the plays. You change the sets. So at halftime, while the coach over in the other dressing room is saying, 'When they line up this way, we'll do this,' you're saying, 'Package two.' You're not going to line up the same way anymore."

QUICK TRAP: This old standby is now a good long-yardage running play and it is becoming quite popular because it takes advantage of the defense's charge toward the quarterback. Chicago even does it from the shotgun formation, and Walter Payton turned it into a 49-yard touchdown run on a sec-



Quick Trap from Shotgun: Cross blocking as ends rush.

ond-and-10 play at New Orleans.

In a typical quick trap (See diagram), the right and left guards crisscross, with the left guard blocking the right defensive tackle and the right guard taking on the left (weakside) linebacker. The center blocks the left defensive tackle. Thus the way is cleared for a rush up the middle, especially against a nickel pass defense.

ROOKIES: The season began with 266 first-year players on NFL rosters, a 26 percent increase in one year. And the youth movement wasn't limited to first-year players. Nearly half the resurgent Steelers team, 23 of 49, were in their first three seasons.

There are several reasons for the youth movement. For one, USFL raids notwithstanding, this year's rookie class was better than usual. A rookie has been among the league leaders in the AFC among passers (Dan Marino) and rookies have been at the top of both conferences in rushing (Eric Dick-



son in the NFC and Curt Warner in the AFC) and scoring (Dickerson again and Raul Allegre in the AFC).

There are other reasons as well: The last two Super Bowl champions were full of rookies and second-year men. Also, in their second season with the 49-man roster, coaches have decided to use the extra four spots as a development squad. And finally, the newly negotiated NFL wage scale created an economic incentive to keep youth over experience.

STUNTS, SPLITS AND SACKS: When the rule-makers first legislated pass defense into a strait jacket, defensive coordinators saw all those uncalled holding penalties and decided they'd better skedaddle back into coverage with all available manpower. That didn't work. No team can cover receivers for as long as a quarterback can wait for one to spring open. (See *Man-to-Man and Combo*) So now, says Brian Sipe, "They've thrown their hands in the air and said, 'We can't cover receivers, so let's go get the quarterback.'"

That, they're doing. League-wide, sacks were up 26 percent from mid-1981 to mid-1983. There has been a staggering increase in blitzing and moving pass-rushers



Stunt: DE blocks two as DT loops free.

around (See *Taylor, Lawrence*) in desperate pursuit of putting the quarterback on his butt. Despite the trend toward 3-4 basic defenses, which are effective against the run, there is a counter-trend toward 4-3 pass defenses with fewer players in coverage. "The move now is to create problems, make the offense make mistakes," says Denver defensive line coach Stan Jones.

Besides holding defenders, offensive linemen have frustrated pass-rushers by narrowing their own splits, or the distance between them. That congestion has made defensive tackles, formerly prime pass-rushers because of their proximity to the quarterback, nearly nonexistent on the list of sack leaders. A purpose of blitzing is to blaze new pass-rush trails, either circumnavigating the protection wall or overloading one side. Stunts—where two defensive linemen exchange pass-rushing routes (See illustration)—can serve the same purpose, and pass-rushing stunts have never been so sophisticated. "There's a lot of science to that now," Jones says.

If Miami, for example, were to use a popular twist-and-loop stunt with end Doug Betters and tackle Bob Baumhower, Betters' first move would be into the offensive tackle instead of around him. Betters would grab the tackle and try to drive him into the guard, controlling both of them. With the offensive tackle sandwiched, Baumhower can loop around him untouched.

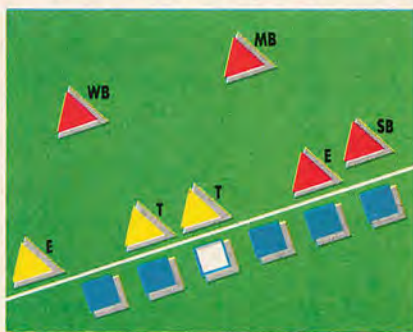
High scores and sacks feed off each other. "I bet you'll find the teams with the most sacks have the most potent offenses in the first quarter," says Cardinal defensive end Al Baker, for years one of the NFL's best pass-rushers. "No pass-rusher is so good that he can get to the quarterback consistently without expecting a pass." Baker is right. Halfway through the season, Minnesota, Washington and Pittsburgh were the best first-quarter teams and all ranked among the top seven in sacks.

TAYLOR, LAWRENCE: The third-year Giants linebacker's impact on defense has changed the game. Just as Bill George was the first middle guard to stand up and become a dominating middle linebacker, Taylor was the first college defensive end to stand up and become a disruptive weakside linebacker. Taylor's presence moved Washington coach Joe Gibbs to use a second tight end for blocking on running plays, blowing the lid off the Pandora's box of one-back offenses. And Taylor's pass-rushing success created a run on similar designated blitzers from the last two drafts, making Chip Banks and Vernon Maxwell hot properties where they might have been questionable "in betweeners" in previous years.

"The thing is, telling a guy to play like Lawrence Taylor doesn't make him Lawrence Taylor," says Giants general manager George Young. The smart coaches have gotten around that by moving their designated blitzers around, so the offense doesn't know where he's coming from. Ted Hendricks did that for years on the Raiders, and A.J. Duhe took Miami to the Super Bowl playing that way. San Francisco has done it with Fred Dean, Seattle with Jacob Green. They all are defensive linemen used as linebackers; other teams use nickel backs that way.



UNDERSHIFT/OVERSHIFT: These are two of the more common entries on the growing menu of multiple defensive fronts. (See *Five-Man Line*) They overload one side of the pass protection wall, putting three linemen on one side or the other of the



Undershift: Overloading weak side.

line, the weak side in an under (See diagram) and the strong side in an over. In a four-man line such as Detroit's, right tackle Doug English would simply line up on the center's nose instead of the left guard's. In a three-man line, a linebacker would come up.

VIDEOTAPE: Pretty soon, coaches won't be able to defer comment on a play until they see the game film. They'll say, "I won't know until I see the tape." The NFL is switching to videotape, standard T-120 cassettes run at 18 times the six-hour speed. They'll be cheaper, tamperproof and easier to edit to show particular plays against various defenses. Tape of practice can be viewed right on the field. A team can even put its playbook on tape. That would be particularly valuable for a new player who must assimilate the whole book in a week, or for those scholar-athletes who enter the NFL with sixth-grade reading skills.

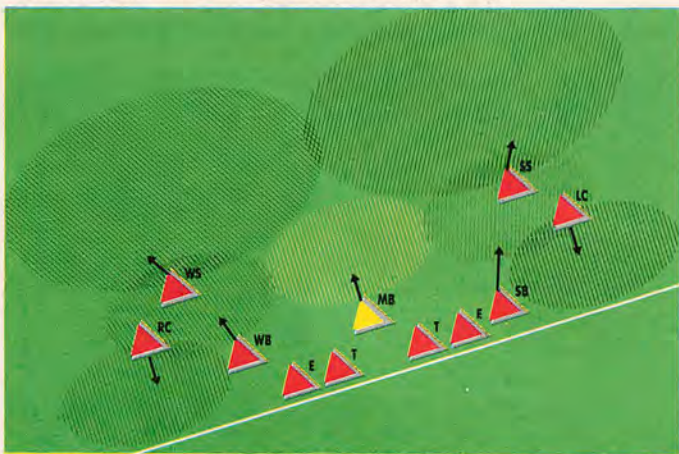
WIG-WAG: Hand signals have replaced messengers for sending in plays. They're faster. Of course there is the risk of sign-stealing, as New England learned when former Patriots quarterback Matt Cavanaugh picked up signals for San Francisco this year. But they're more garbleproof than messengers. One Bear took in Play 17 from the playbook; the coaches wanted the 17th play written on the quarterback's wrist.

X-RECEIVER: This is most teams' designation for the weakside wide receiver, but we're talking wide receivers, period. Lots of them. As in four at a time, which isn't such a rare sight anymore. The game is being played farther downfield, and wide receivers get there faster than backs or tight ends. Not long ago, the Vikings carried three wide receivers on their roster. They had six this year.

Y-O-YO TENDENCY: The inclination of teams to trade leads and refuse to settle games early. The league set a record for overtime games in a season (14) by the ninth weekend this year. The games that didn't go to overtime ended close. Through the first two-thirds of the season, 51.4 percent of the games had been decided by seven points or fewer, 26 percent by three or fewer. This could be the league's first full season with more than half its games settled by less than a touchdown.

ZONES: In simpler times, a defense could play a whole game in one or two different zone coverages. Common maneuvers in such coverages were Rotating and Rolling Up. Rotating referred to the direction a defense would send the teeth of its zone coverage, as in rotating to the strong side. Nowadays, with offenses using two tight ends, who's to say which is the strong side?

Nobody rolled up better than Pittsburgh in the Seventies. The two-deep zone defense (See diagram) was called the Pittsburgh defense because the Steelers were so good at rolling their cornerbacks up to the line of scrimmage, where they would bludgeon the wide receivers with abandon, comfortably aware their safeties were behind them in case a receiver got away.



Two-Deep, Five-Short Zone: No help deep or in middle.

That double-zone worked when the only deep threats were wide-outs, but fleet tight ends have made a virtual dinosaur of it. If the tight end sees the safeties spreading out into two deep zones, he will run a deep post pattern between them. There will be no help in the middle. (See *Man-to-Man and Combo*)

The only zone that seems to stop anyone is the end zone. ★

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A man with dark hair, wearing a dark leather jacket, is shown from the chest up, playing a Gibson Les Paul electric guitar. He is looking down at the guitar with a focused expression. The guitar is a dark color with a light-colored pickguard and gold hardware. The background is dark and out of focus.

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The outline of the new Civics makes the best use of aerodynamic design. Even the doors wrap over the top to conceal the drip rails and reduce wind drag. The rear spoiler also deflects air down the rear window to help keep it clear from dust.

There is a totally new and compact suspension system. It gives excellent directional stability. Yet it rides like a

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The practical Honda Civic Hatchback comes with a peppy 1342cc engine and a manual 4-speed. While the new, larger 1488cc 12-valve engine powers the deluxe Civic DX and also the sporty Civic S. These two come with a manual 5-speed shift.

But there is a new 3-speed automatic with a torque converter lock-up available

in the Civic DX Hatchback.

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All things considered, the new line of Civics is one line you will love being handed.

HONDA

The New Civics

A STRANGE CREW ON THE CLIPPERS

Captain Bill Walton has a peg leg. First mate Terry Cummings has a bad ticker. Newest mate Norm Nixon walked the plank in L.A. San Diego is the NBA mystery ship. Will they sail . . . or will they sink?

by Ted Green

I got something for those guys." Norm Nixon was talking, half joking, half serious, about the Los Angeles Lakers, the team that had just traded him to the San Diego Clippers. The two teams were about to meet for the first time in this 1983-84 NBA season, and though Nixon had downplayed any revenge motive, saying all the right things to the newspapers, he talked on the square over lunch in a Japanese restaurant. "I'm not bitter," he maintained. "Hurt, maybe, but not bitter." And what is it you have for your old mates, Norm? He laughed. "About 30 points."

He must have meant in the first half, for in the first 24 minutes, Nixon lit up the San Diego Sports Arena with 25 points. Blazing with both guns, he made 10 of 12 shots plus five of six from the line; in one stretch he scored 10 straight Clipper points, purging his demons in an effort that left him so exhausted that he didn't score at all in the second half. But he did assist on the final three San Diego baskets, including Bill Walton's winning lefthanded hook over Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with 18 seconds to play. Nixon, not usually one to show emotion, raised both fists triumphantly.

Triumph? In San Diego? After all, pro basketball and San Diego have been antonyms for over a decade, the sport failing so regularly and predictably there that skepticism and cynicism were finally replaced by complete indifference. Rockets, Conquistadores, Sails, who cares? Why, as recently as last season, the Clippers were practicing at a Naval base with only

one basket, losing 57 games and firing both the coach and general manager after averaging less than 4,000 fans a night. Thank god for Sea World and the zoo.

But a funny thing is happening down in basketball's Bermuda Triangle: the Clippers are starting to look like a competitive team, even (hold on to your wind-surfers, San Diego) a team with legitimate playoff hopes. This sudden turnaround, rare in sports and rarer still in the NBA, could swing the balance of power in the Pacific Division, like some giant shifting of the earth so common to these parts, from Los Angeles down south to San Diego. Who'd ever believe it? But wait, it gets better. And worse.

While the Clippers' situation may be the most improved in the league this year, it is definitely the most precarious. Their owner was censured last year by the NBA for saying his team should try to finish last. The new GM spent most of his adult life peddling bottled water, while the new club president has enough experience and clout to have been considered for commissioner of the whole damn league. Meanwhile, the new head coach, a former math teacher, is the only man in the NBA who can solve differential equations, but, prior to this season, he'd never coached a pro game in his life.

Oh well, management problems. What NBA team doesn't have them? How do they look on the court? Well, the center has set records that may never be broken. Unfortunately, they are medical records, chronicling 12 operations, seven on his feet. Yet his problems pale next to those



Nixon won Round 1 vs. L.A., with a little help from new friend Walton.



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of the power forward, who has a heart condition that is extremely rare in one so young—and potentially fatal. And yes, the team's record this year will depend almost wholly on the health and performance of these two players. Add Norm Nixon, once an all-star, now mysteriously banished from L.A.'s Magic kingdom, to a talented but bizarre player crew, and you're looking at a sink or sail season for the Clipper Ship of Fools. Let's start (of course) with the Captain.

The Foot Case

Bill Walton was the last Clipper to leave the arena the night of the Lakers game, sitting back in his lockerroom cubicle, still naked, after all the other players had gone. "I'm feeling quick and strong," he said. "It's fun to play basketball like this, to feel I have an effect on the game again."

"But it's not just the game that I love," he continued, "it's the lifestyle. It's being lonely and miserable in Kansas City. It's having a blast in San Francisco. It's the lows and highs, the energy from the crowds, dueling Kareem or Doctor J. It's everything." Walton smiled unself-consciously. "Sunshine, music and basketball," he said, and if he hadn't uttered a profound truth, he had summed up Bill Walton just beautifully. And he disappeared into the shower.

Walton has missed three entire seasons and most of two others since his chronic left foot problem was first diagnosed in the spring of 1978 up in Portland. But at the beginning of this season, Walton appeared to be truly sound, though he and the club agreed he would sit out the second of back-to-back games, meaning he could play a maximum of 63 (missing 19) during the regular season. Walton's advisors, Drs. Tony Daly and Ernie Vandeweghe, told the Clippers that, as far as they were concerned, their patient could return to full-time action. And their patient, as he showed in that Lakers game, is still one of the three best centers in basketball.

Afterward, coach Jim Lynam looked at Walton, smiled, and said he would resist the temptation of using him every night. "Why risk it?" he asked. "Sixty-three games would be the second most he's ever played in the NBA. If we get 63 from him, we'll be there at the end."

But. There are those in the NBA who believe that Walton's comings and goings will pose not only a morale problem, but will also disrupt the young team's progress and their adjustment to a new coach. "Sixty-three is not enough," says an Eastern conference GM. "No matter how well Walton plays when he's in there, the

Cummings: The Spirit Is Willing . . .

Looking at the 6-9, 234-pound Terry Cummings, you'd never suspect a thing. He certainly seemed the epitome of health when the Clippers made the former DePaul all-American the second player selected in the 1982 draft. But last December 15, Cummings fainted and had a momentary seizure during the third quarter of a game at Utah. And it wasn't until last April 5, when his heartbeat shot up to 300 per minute during a game against Seattle, that the condition was definitively diagnosed.

Cummings, who is only 22, has what Clippers team physician Dr. H.C. Palmer calls "primary electrical heart disease." Its official name is ventricular tachycardia. For reasons no one knows, the heart sends abnormal electrical impulses that result in irregular, rapid heartbeats, known as arrhythmia. "It's fairly common among older people in coronary care units," Dr. Palmer says. "But for a young person like Terry, it's not very common at all. People with this condition can do well, then drop over, just like that. It's certainly potentially fatal."

Subsequent testing at Northwestern University Medical Center, where Dr. Richard Kehoe put Cummings through painful cardiac catheterization, confirmed the arrhythmia. Cummings spent four-and-a-half hours on an operating table, with a plastic tube pushed up through the femoral artery in his groin, into his aortic valve. Then the doctors gave him the good news: If the medication worked, his life

other players will have to change their games too much when he's out, especially since [backup James] Donaldson is an immobile, totally inside player, the opposite of Walton." And. The Clippers have only to look at Walton's games played—47 in the last five years—to know that they are literally one foot from the grave.

The Heart Case

Every game, home and away, the San Diego Clippers carry something besides



The picture of health?

probably wasn't in jeopardy, just his career. It was Cummings who made the ultimate decision to take the risk and rejoin the Clippers.

The drug Cummings takes to control the arrhythmia is Amiodarone, which has not yet been approved for commercial use by the Food and Drug Administration, but has been on the market for 10 years in Europe. He takes about 18 pills a week, depending on how lightheaded they make him feel. "When I start feelin' too high," he says, "I stop for a while. They make me pretty giddy sometimes." Other potential side effects include chronic pneumonia, thyroid problems, upset stomach and glary vision, but Cummings has

experienced none of those. The Clippers also continue to spot-check Cummings periodically with EKG testing during games, wiring him with electrodes and a 4.5-ounce transmitter under his uniform. So far, so good.

At first, Cummings was not at all receptive to medical treatment and didn't immediately cut out the junk food he loves, as per doctors' orders. "None of this has been easy for him," says Dr. Palmer. "Terry went through all the usual stages—confusion, shock, anger, denial and, finally, acceptance." Cuddling his two-year-old son T.J., the quiet, religious man the Clippers call T.C. says: "A proverb says that a brother is born for adversity. Life is full of ups and downs. I feel great peace about the things I stand for, so I don't think I have anything to worry about."

the usual basketballs, Ben-Gay and bubble gum. It's a portable defibrillator, a machine with electric paddles that can spark a failed heart back to life. It is placed inconspicuously, hidden on the floor between the press table and the first seat on the bench. Out of sight, out of mind, perhaps. But never out of reach.

The lifesaving device is an ominous reminder that the Clippers' second-year forward, Terry Cummings, has a serious heart problem, one currently being con-

He Also Serves Who Sits and Waits

Why did the Lakers trade Norm Nixon to the Clippers and make San Diego an instant contender in their own Pacific Division backyard? While the merits of the exchange of Nixon and Eddie Jordan for Swen Nater and Byron Scott can only be judged two or three years down the line, one thing is certain. The Lakers needed a backup center very badly and they got the man who, against his will, has become the NBA prototype for that position: Swen Nater.

When he came out of UCLA, where he backed up Bill Walton 10 years ago, Nater was probably the only No. 1 draft pick never to have started a college game. And he was so tired of his backup status that he signed with the ABA rather than take Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's leftover minutes with the Milwaukee Bucks. Since then, Nater has played long enough to have backed up Walton again, this time with the Clippers, and now he's right back where he didn't want to be, backing up Kareem for the Lakers.

But now, at the age of 33, Nater is happy to have the chance. After all, there are worse places to be, and Nater's experienced most of them. After seven teams (contrary to his image, he began each of



Same place, new bench.

these stops as a starter), two knee operations, a folded franchise and a defunct league, Nater says he is finally content being a role player.

Asked to describe Nater's contributions, Lakers coach Pat Riley says, "Kareem needs a strong man behind him. He is a finesse player who takes a tremendous amount of punishment and the guy who backs him up really has to hammer and do a lot of dirty work." At 6-11, 250 pounds, Nater has never shied away from contact, and he has eagerly accepted his responsibilities. "If we are going to win a championship this year, a very big key is Kareem," Nater says. "He has to stay healthy and not get tired. That is on my shoulders."

Nater knows his contributions will not go unappreciated by his teammates, coaches or by the L.A. media spotlight. "You can't be in the shadows out here in Los Angeles, even if you are a backup," Nater says. "Do you think Bob McAdoo was in the shadows? Even if I am in the shadows and we win the championship, well, praise the Lord!"

"I've been on a lot of losing teams in my career," he sums up, "and I'd rather be a backup on a winner than a starter on a loser."

—Thomas Bonk

trolled with an experimental drug (see page 41), but nonetheless something he will have to live with the rest of his life.

Cummings, 22, is San Diego's most valuable player; he made the All-Star Team, was named rookie of the year and averaged 23.7 points and 10.6 rebounds last year and ranked among the league leaders in both those categories at the beginning of this season—and his continued health is a giant question mark hanging over the Clippers' future. "If Terry continues to do well and has no complications from the medication for any reason, he can go right on with his plans for a long career," says team physician Dr. H.C. Palmer. "If we have to stop the medication for any reason, we've got a new problem. If that happens, we might not

have anywhere to go."

Cummings, an ordained Pentecostal minister, has been able to accept the situation perhaps better than anyone. "There was a time I was afraid, for sure," he says quietly, "but not anymore. If I die, I die. Whatever happens, my family is taken care of. I just go home and pray."

The Showcase

The occasion was the Clippers' team picnic. A smaller player, new to the city, dressed chicly in draw-string pants, velour top and expensive shades, stood on the shore and peered out toward the boats on Mission Bay. "I think I'm gonna learn me some windsurfin'," he said, in a voice loud enough for nearly everyone to hear. "Yeah," he said, "it's pretty down here.

I'm gonna like it just fine."

But being traded from the Lakers was nonetheless a bitter pill for Norm Nixon to swallow. He'd been a Laker for six years, started in the finals the last three times out and had two championship rings to show for it. Nixon was tight with Magic and Michael Cooper; they called themselves the Three Musketeers. He had been a part of the Lakers' Showtime game and the Hollywood lifestyle; his girlfriend is Debbie Allen of TV's "Fame" and his friends include Jack Nicholson and other show business personalities. And now he was gone, sent packing, traded (along with Eddie Jordan) for Byron Scott, a rookie guard with great potential but marginal immediate value and Swen Nater, a backup center who played only 28 games over the past two seasons due to a knee injury. The Lakers said Nater would give them muscle in the middle (Kareem's rebounding total has declined from 1,025 in 1979 to 592 last year) and that they were sold on Scott. Then there were whispers that GM Jerry West was down on Nixon personally and that Nixon might have a drug problem. It all adds up to another question mark.

Why's aside, the wherefore of the Nixon trade is that San Diego had been missing a ballhandler, floor leader, speedburner and jumpshooter. The club got all four in Nixon plus the experience and attitude that comes from winning two championships in the Eighties. And it took less than a week for him to show it. "Donaldson was backing Bill in during practice, staying in the lane 10 seconds," Nixon recalls. "Walton said, 'Are we gonna call some rules here or what?' I ran past and said, 'Quit cryin', mother.' Well, he got pissed. For the next five minutes he blocked everybody's shots, hands over the square. Man, I'd forgotten how good Bill Walton was. I just looked up and said, 'Damn. . . .'"

The Head Cases

"Are the Clippers different?" asks Jerome Whitehead, his voice rising in mock indignation. "Are you serious?" Whitehead, Al McGuire's original "aircraft carrier" at Marquette, is a sixth-year reserve center/forward; he's been with the Clippers through the bad times. "We used to hope to be in the playoffs," he says, "but nobody really meant it. Now we know we can get there."

Well sure, the Clippers are better, Jerome, but aren't they still, a little, you know . . . different? Doesn't it seem like everyone on this team has their own little question mark—or exclamation point—following them around? Take small for-

"Come to think of it,
I'll have a Heineken...
Special Dark."



ward Greg Kelser, drafted fourth overall after winning the national championship with Magic Johnson at Michigan State in 1979, but who's never really gotten it together (with Detroit or Seattle) in the pros. "He broke my heart," says ESPN commentator (then Pistons head coach) Dick Vitale. "And I took him ahead of Sidney Moncrief. . . ." Then there's his running mate, Michael Brooks, an absolute demon on the offensive boards, who ingratiated himself with past Clipper coaches by sporting an earring, headband and tape player at practices.

At 7-2, 270, backup center James Donaldson may be the biggest player in the NBA. He's certainly the only one born in Meachem, England who didn't start in college (Washington State) until he was a senior.

And how about Billy McKinney, the backup point guard, who the Kansas City Kings found in an industrial league five years ago and claims to be so fast that he once threw a 99-yard touchdown pass in high school—to himself? Or off-guard Craig Hodges, a third-round charity pick from Cal-Long Beach who's got to be the least known starter in the league? Who's in charge here, anyway?

The Court Case

The man entrusted with all these minds and bodies, new head coach Jim Lynam, had better know exactly what he's doing. And being a Jack Ramsay disciple, he surely does. An intense, straightforward, Irish Catholic from Philadelphia, Lynam took some undermanned St. Joseph's teams to the NIT and the NCAA Tournament, upsetting No. 1 ranked DePaul in 1981. He is also a compulsive jogger whose pants are getting too big from all those miles. What does he see down the road for the Clippers?

"We'd be naive not to be aware of the injury situation with Walton and Cummings and the possibility that it could all fall apart," says the first-year mentor. "But I learned a long time ago not to worry about things I can't control. It's in God's hands, I guess. Or somebody's."

The Briefcase Boys

In October of 1982, the franchise's fortunes and credibility had sunk to an absolute, all-time low. You couldn't give a Clipper ticket to a wino at the bus station. Owner Donald Sterling hired general manager Paul Phipps, a handsome, well-spoken, slightly pudgy, God-fearing Christian, the former bottled water maven who had helped start the Dallas Mavericks from scratch and quickly turned them into a profitable draw. Ster-



Friendly foes: "Being traded," says Nixon, "is inevitable."

ling's next move was to bring in club president Alan Rothenberg, a handsome, well-spoken, formerly pudgy Jewish attorney who had previously advised NBA owners Jack Kent Cooke (Lakers) and Sam Schulman (Sonics) before being brought in to restore some fiscal sanity.

The San Diego GM and the Hollywood lawyer don't always agree; Phipps' first choice to replace Silas, for example, was Dallas assistant coach Bobby Weiss, while Rothenberg favored (and got) Lynam. But with Phipps running the team day to day, they have towed the Clippers into smoother waters, even going to war with the Sports Arena operators, winning improvements that include roof repairs, a resurfaced floor and fresh paint on the seats. Early 1983 attendance was more than double what it was last year, and the club drew over 11,000 for the early victory over the Lakers.

Get Off My Case

Donald T. Sterling bought the team in 1981 and promised that San Diego would quickly become a "first-class" franchise.

However, his record (42-122 over the last two years), his attempt to move the Clippers north to the Los Angeles Sports Arena and the white wine and catered dinner he had served to his courtside seat did little to endear him locally.

But to his credit, Don T. is adopting a very low profile in this period of transition. In fact, the man who once plastered pictures of himself all over town even forsook the traditional owner's bio in this year's Clippers press guide (for the record, Sterling is a sharp-dressing, fifty-ish real estate tycoon who commutes to games from Beverly Hills).

As Rothenberg says, "Don Sterling took a terrible whipping and was excoriated by press and public alike. But he was smart enough to hire good people, listen to them and spend money if it made sense to spend. And, all of a sudden, the Clippers became a major league front office." He seems to have learned his lesson. Now that he's gotten out of the way, though, will he stay there?

Case Closed?

"I won't consider the corner turned until we reach the playoffs," says Lynam. What about it? Lakers GM Jerry West says, "Walton is still great, Cummings is fabulous and Nixon will help a lot. They have to be careful not to get buried early while they're still getting their act together, but if they keep those two guys healthy and improve their depth a little, they could go a long way."

Though the Clippers went 0-6 on their first road trip in November, including an overtime loss to the champion 76ers, they will have 14 home games the last six weeks of the season. But don't pop those champagne corks yet, this is still the diciest team in the league. Reminds another NBA GM, "If either Walton or Cummings goes down, they're dead."

Even if disaster strikes this year, help is on the way. With draft choices acquired in trades with Seattle and Golden State, the Clippers have two No. 1 picks in the upcoming college draft, and both of those could be among the first 10 players selected if the Sonics and Warriors go sour. With some luck and/or a little wheeling and dealing, the Clips could even wind up in the flip. And for once, the flip will have nothing to do with Shamu.

Blue-chip draft choices? A playoff team? A major league front office? Could this really ever be the San Diego Clippers? In a story of question marks, could the final answer be anything but maybe? ★

Ted Green, formerly with the Los Angeles Times, is a basketball analyst for On-TV.

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TWO SHOTS AT ONE GOAL

Brian Lawton and Pat LaFontaine are both American teenagers—and both extraordinary hockey players. And both faced a dilemma. Lawton chose the pros. LaFontaine chose the Olympics. Now we'll see who made the best choice.



by David Levine

The empty seats in the Met Center form a mosaic of green, gold and white. Down on the ice a similar mosaic, created by the practice jerseys of the Minnesota North Stars, is breaking up. As the players clomp up the green stairway to the dressing room after a difficult practice, the mood is quiet, tense. Times are not good for the North Stars now; as of this day, only the pitiful New Jersey Devils and Pittsburgh Penguins have poorer records.

A single player remains on the ice. Brian Lawton, the only American-born player ever picked first in the NHL draft, glides slowly over the surface, shooting the puck by himself. Through the first 10 games of the season Lawton has scored only one goal; worse, he is playing sparingly, only a few shifts in the games he takes part in, while sitting out other games entirely. Lawton is soon joined by another skater, this one clad in clashing red, white and blue. Pat LaFontaine, from Michigan, was the third player chosen in last year's draft. He is now a member of Team USA, America's representative to the Olympics, having chosen to delay his pro career by a few months.

"Hey, buddy. What's up?" LaFontaine smiles broadly as he shakes Lawton's hand. Both are 18 years old, both of their teams are based here at the

Met. Their lockerrooms are only a few yards apart, their team offices just down the hallway. Alone, Lawton and LaFontaine begin to skate up and down the ice, passing the puck and exchanging stories about games and goals, fights and friends. Watching them from nearby is Gene Barcikowski, the Olympic team's assistant equipment manager.

"Those are two of the nicest kids you'll ever meet," Barcikowski says. "At the World 'B' tournament in Tokyo last year, Brian and I had some problems. Nothing big, he'd forget his helmet or his sticks, make my job harder. One day he knocks on my hotel door. My wife answers, and there he is, big bouquet of flowers for her. Sweet kid. Pat's great too. A super player, of course, and real down to earth."

Lawton sends a sharp pass to LaFontaine, who bangs it into the unguarded net. The shot echoes through the empty arena. "You know, Lawton would improve our team 100 percent," Barcikowski says. "Shame he's not playing here."

Other Olympians filter onto the ice. They all know Lawton; he played with or against them in high school, at international tournaments and at the Olympic trials last summer. As the Olympic team takes over the ice for a light practice, Lawton heads

for a crisis meeting with the Minnesota coaches. An impromptu half-ice game develops, blues and whites against reds. The scene resembles a Sunday afternoon pickup game at the local pond. "It's five-four," LaFontaine yells. "Gotta win by two." At the same time, Lawton is being told that because the team is struggling, coach Bill Mahoney plans to play only three lines in the hope of generating more team consistency. Lawton is the fourth center.

From now until the time they are firmly entrenched in the NHL, the careers of Brian Lawton and Pat LaFontaine will be compared and contrasted for the paths they have chosen. They are two of the best hockey players America has ever produced, and they could have been team-

mates. Instead, their lives are now miles apart.

Brian's mom is on the phone. "Brian debated most of the summer. He was under a lot of pressure and couldn't decide what to do." Cathy Lawton is speaking from the cafeteria of Mt. St. Charles high school in Cumberland, Rhode Island, Brian's alma mater, where she works. "Even after he signed his contract he still wanted to play in the Olympics. The team sort of convinced him to play, I think. They won't say that, of course. They'll say they left it up to him."

This is Brian's first extended stay away from home. He's boarding with another family in the suburbs. "All the contract problems had him down," Mrs. Lawton

says. "It seemed the North Stars didn't really want him and then, when he was leaning toward the Olympics, they suddenly wanted him again. It's been a hard adjustment. He's disappointed at not playing. The team told him he'd be brought in slowly—and he is only 18—but other teams are playing their rookies."

The North Stars are a mess. Recent losses include blow-outs of 11-2 in Quebec and 8-1 at home against Boston. The heat is rising, and new coach Bill Mahoney is feeling most of it. Mahoney was hired to take over one of the most explosive scoring machines in hockey, a team of free-wheeling, run-and-gun talent akin to the Edmonton Oilers. But Mahoney has decided to install a

Defending the Gold: Don't Expect Any Miracles

With Pat LaFontaine as the catalyst, the 1984 Olympic hockey team may be as talented and determined as the 1980 version. But let's be honest, this team does not stand a very good chance of winning the gold medal. There are a number of reasons why.

The U.S. team will skate in the highly competitive Blue Division, which also consists of Czechoslovakia, Canada and Finland (as well as lesser-regarded Norway and Austria), leaving four top-flight contenders for only two medal-round berths. The survivors will play their two Red Division counterparts (most likely the USSR and Sweden), with the medals being decided by total points for all seven games. With the Soviets expected to breeze through their grouping unscathed, anything less than a first-place Blue Division finish by the Americans may preclude a gold medal.

In addition, this year's club has been seriously hurt by key defections.

And although the Canadians, Swedes and Finns have also lost players to the NHL, it is difficult to imagine that their losses equal those of the U.S. team—forwards Brian Lawton, Bobby Carpenter and Phil Housley, and goalie Tom Barrasso.

But most important, this year the U.S. team will not benefit from the home ice advantage. There will be no crowds chanting, "USA, USA." The momentum will be a little harder to muster.

"It's going to be a lot tougher this time," says forward Ed Olczyk. "The fans are going to be against us, the referees will be watching us more closely and other teams will really be up when they play against us."

There are positive signs for this team, however. Coach Lou Vairo, who learned the sport playing roller hockey in Brooklyn, was one of the first to adapt European tactics to North American hockey. Just as in 1980, the Americans will feature skating and puck control, with plenty of weaving. His team has speed, skill and size—like the '80 team—but the coach goes to great lengths to avoid the comparisons.

"It would be insulting for me to compare this team with the 1980 team," Vairo

LaFontaine (top) and Verchota: The '80 team has left them with a tough act to follow.



closer-checking, defensive style similar to that of the Islanders. It's not working. Further, the Stars announce two moves that reek of desperation. They trade the popular Bobby Smith, a swift, talented former No. 1 draft pick and rookie of the year in 1978-79, to Montreal for the more workmanlike Keith Acton and the injured Mark Napier. Then they recall goalie Jim Craig, the former Olympic star, from the minors in an effort to stir things up.

Both moves bomb. The announcement to scratch Bobby Smith from the lineup draws loud boos from the smallest Saturday night crowd at the Met in five years. A sign from the cheap seats proclaims "Mahoney, Baloney." The Capitals score on their first two shots at Craig, who is yanked after two periods; Wash-

ington wins, 6-1. After the game the lockerroom is quiet, confused. "It seems like we don't know where we're going or what we're doing out there," forward Steve Payne tells a reporter. "Seems," the reporter asks, "or do you really not know where to go?" Payne doesn't answer.

Off in the corner, Lawton is undressing. He played only a few shifts in the third period. "Yeah, when the game is over, I play," he smiles.

"No one should expect smooth sailing in this league," Mahoney says the next day. He is talking about the team's current problems, but it is a neat segue into the subject of Lawton.

"Brian's basic skill level is sensational, his only difficulty is getting ice time," he says. "I'd love to have him working more, but the conditions are such that we've had to go with three lines, and Brian's got three major-league centers ahead of him. We knew he'd make progressive improvement, but to gauge the slope of that improvement . . ."—his hand moves upward in a 45-degree angle—"is unfair. On another team, that slope might be entirely different." Mahoney understands Lawton's frustration. "I've tried to tell him to be patient. Our confidence in him is high. No way he won't be an established player here. You'll hear from him, this year."

Lawton is a solid, two-way player often compared to Bryan Trottier. He averaged 3.5 points per game over his last two years in high school. In his four years at Mt. St. Charles, his team went 121-3-2 and won four state titles. He also tied for second in scoring during the North Stars' training camp, but he is not a flashy player. He's fleshy, solid, with good hockey sense and an intuitive grasp of where players are on the ice and how to generate plays. "The first time I saw Lawton play was at the Olympic trials last summer," Mahoney says. "I thought he was the best player on the ice."

At 6-0, 175 pounds, Brian Lawton could clearly hold a little more weight; his gait still reflects a teenage growth spurt. His stubbly haircut, the veteran players' gift to their rookie, makes him look a touch older than he is, but his manner is that of your younger brother, grown up and off to college. You can't believe he's gotten so old and is moving on in life. Neither can he.

Wearing his old high school hockey team jacket, he settles down before several pounds of lunch to talk about life as a professional. "Times are tough now, but they'll be better. A lot of people ask me, with things not going so well, whether

I wish I was on the Olympic team. I'm not ready to bail out yet." His speech is pure Rhode Island, perhaps the most distinctive of all the northeastern twangs; if New England were New York, the Rhode Island accent would be Brooklynese.

"Everyone I talked to told me to do what I wanted to do. Which was nice, except that I didn't know what I wanted to do. My agents influenced me to pick the pros. They said this would be the best time for me, not six months after the Olympics or four years after college (Lawton was offered a full scholarship to Providence College, a hockey power). Hopefully, I'll be better here in six months than I could have been with the Olympic team." He downs a glass of milk.

"The coaching here is a lot different than in high school. This is business. You're expected to know a lot more. I'm 18, I have a lot to learn, but coaches here don't say much. Personally, I'd like to hear more, discuss more with the coaches." His voice grows softer. "What I gotta get is playing time. I need experience. It's confusing and frustrating, but I just try to hang in there. If they want me to sit it's their business, it's up to them. But I *know* it's detrimental not playing."

As difficult as it has been for Lawton to adjust to life on the ice in Minnesota, his adjustment off the ice has been even tougher. The North Stars have this reputation . . . well, they're a tough bunch. One analyst called them Team Dissension: "Everyone hated everyone else," he said of last year's team. Mahoney made that problem one of his top priorities. "We're making an effort to create a stronger team concept," he says. "Guys going their separate ways, backstabbing, it's too divisive for a good team. I'm sure the lack of a team concept was a very big sacrifice for Brian, coming from high school where the team is your closest buddies."

"Most of the guys are married here, so I'm kind of forced to hang out with the other single guys," Lawton says. "That's kind of new." After his first NHL goal, in Chicago, Lawton was obliged to buy the team drinks. Only problem: the drinking age in Illinois and Lawton's age don't mix. "They drank. I drank soda water," he laughs.

Lawton is not miserable in the NHL by any means. Just disoriented and a bit out of place. That point is made even more clearly when he crosses paths with the Olympians. "Oh yeah, they're closer to my age. Some are real good friends. Like David A. Jensen, we played together before. I'd probably have been his roommate if I'd played with them. Paul Guay and I played together in high school. I

This Time

says. "They won the gold medal. We've won some exhibition games. My goal is simply to qualify for the medal round, anything after that is gravy."

Of the team's 25 players, only three were born when the U.S. won the gold in 1960, and as many still have a year of high school eligibility remaining. Despite their youth—and these are the youngest U.S. representatives ever—they won't lack for experience, thanks to an extensive preparatory program. The Americans are scheduled to play 66 games before arriving in Sarajevo. Opponents include Olympic rivals, plus NHL, minor league and collegiate teams. The key tests will come when the team heads over to Europe at the end of January. Those games will be played on Olympic-sized surfaces (200 feet by 100 feet as opposed to the standard American 200 by 85), giving U.S. team members a true indication of their stamina.

While there is certainly ample talent on the Olympic squad—including the celebrated LaFontaine—not too many names are familiar. Captain Phil Verchota, who scored the tying goal against the Finns in '80 and, at age 27, is the senior citizen, returns, as does John Harrington. The team's firepower will come from a pair of future pros, 18-year-old David A. Jensen (Hartford Whalers) and Scott Bjugstad (Minnesota North Stars). The goaltending definitely will be first-rate, thanks to Bob Mason and Marc Behrend.

It's a great squad, but it's a greater challenge. Perhaps Phil Verchota says it best. "Hey, when you go fishing, even if you're lucky enough to catch the biggest fish in the world, you still go back out there the next day, right?" Right.

—Dan Herbst

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know Rich Costello from Providence." His tone is a bit wistful. "Unfortunately, it didn't happen. In some ways I'm sad. I would have loved to play with Jensen and LaFontaine. But being a pro is number one now. Next year I'll ask myself if I regret the decision. It's still too early to tell." Patience is his main concern, and patience is not something 18-year-olds have large supplies of. "You only get one rookie year," he sighs, as his slips by.

I'm sure Pat LaFontaine's introduction into the NHL will be a lot easier than Brian Lawton's was or is now," says Neil Smith, the director of pro scouting for the Red Wings, who checked both players out before the draft. "Seeing Lawton play in high school was like watching a man play with boys. He was too good for that caliber of play. But it's tough to judge a high school player's calibration with the pros. It's easier to judge them when they come from Canadian juniors, because that's where most players still come from."

Pat LaFontaine made news last year when he left the United States to compete in Canada's Junior A system, the NHL's top trade school. Playing in the Quebec Major Junior league, LaFontaine amazed everyone by breaking scoring records previously held by former Quebec stars Mike Bossy, Guy Lafleur and Denis Savard. He romped through the scoring race, notching 104 goals and 130 assists in 70 games, the third-highest point total in league history. More important, perhaps, was the junior experience. Junior players are paid (\$35 a week), travel extensively, live away from home and even can be traded. "Juniors possess the pro mentality," explains Smith. "Guys are out there for a job, and they'll cut you in half to get it. LaFontaine saw that in Quebec. You don't see it in high school, where it's still rah-rah, play for your team."

Another pro scout is surprised to learn that Brian Lawton's playing time for the North Stars has been substantially cut. "He's going to be playing less? That's crazy. You've gotta play 18-year-olds. I won't question another coach," he says as he questions another coach, "but the kid needs experience." He jots a note down on his pad. "Lawton should have played in the Olympics. The experience, the international competition—it's invaluable. He'd be something on this team." Who does he like on Team USA now? A smile. "LaFontaine."

Pat's mom is on the phone. "Pat really weighed both sides and talked to lots of people to get a feel for both situations.

He had a feeling he wouldn't play right away with the Islanders, so he figured a year's growth with the Olympic team would be better."

Jay LaFontaine is speaking from the family's lake-front home, near Pontiac, Michigan. "Whether he got paid now or six months from now didn't impress Pat. He really wanted to play in the pros, and that was his first option, but he's happy."

Team USA, after playing together for several months, seems to have the hang of coach Lou Vairo's intricate weaving style—the style first made famous by the Europeans. It is a style that is also particularly well-suited for LaFontaine, a smooth-skating, quick-handed darter whose movements on the ice invariably draw the eye of anyone watching. LaFontaine is a charismatic, stylish player, similar in form to his role models, Guy Lafleur and Gil Perreault; even his French-Canadian name and background fit.

That fit is evident in a weeknight game against the Indianapolis Checkers, the Islanders' top farm team in the Central Hockey League. Team USA dominates play, winning 9-3, upping its overall record midway through its 66-game preparatory nonseason to 15-7-7. LaFontaine, playing on a line with David A. Jensen (a first-round draft pick of Hartford last year) and Ed Olczyk (at 17 the youngest Olympian and a probable first-round choice this year), is dazzling, scoring on a sharp backhand and grabbing assists on two of Jensen's three goals. After the game LaFontaine still holds the lead in team scoring with 18 goals and 20 assists in the 26 games he's played, nine points ahead of second place Jensen. LaFontaine is an excellent team player within a strong team concept, but he clearly stands out. Like Lafleur or Perreault, he has the ability to somehow lighten his body when he has the puck, to rise on his toes and dance lightly toward open ice. His hands are noticeable, too, for their deft quickness.

LaFontaine looks shorter than his listed height, 5-9, and lighter than his listed weight, 180. He certainly looks younger than his 18 years. He has the sad-eyed droop of a puppy, a look noticed by his teammates. "Jensen nicknamed me Cujjo after they saw some movie with this killer St. Bernard in it," he laughs. "They say I have his eyes."

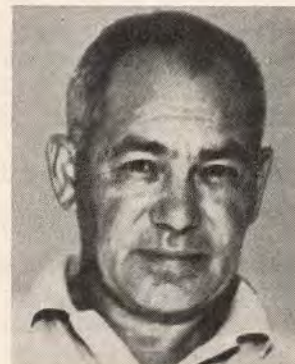
Only three members of the American team were born as long ago as the Fifties; on this team, 22 is old. They hang out together, see movies together, hit the shopping malls together. "The coaches put a lot of fun into this," LaFontaine

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"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

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says. "We get away from too much seriousness. We went salmon fishing in Alaska and sightseeing in Finland, things like that. It's important."

That's not to say LaFontaine's decision was any easier than Lawton's. Wrapping his blue jacket—with "USA" and a single hockey stick on the chest—around his chair, he settles down before several other pounds of lunch. "It was a tough decision, everything was happening so fast. Neither the Islanders nor coach Vairo put any pressure on me, though. I just tried to calm down, let the dust settle and decide what I wanted to do most. After about three weeks I decided that any kid lucky enough to be picked for the Olympic team, especially after what happened in 1980, would have the experience of a lifetime. I'll always be able to look back on this experience. There'll be lots of years in the pros, but there's only one Olympics."

Pat LaFontaine was never going to med school. This is one career that has been charted logically and thoroughly from an early age. "When I hit 14 or 15 I decided to pursue a pro career," he says. "The best competition for me was in Canadian

juniors, so I went there. They say that coming out of juniors, you're supposed to go straight to the pros. But you have to do what you want to do most. Right now, it's playing for this team."

He bites into his Reuben. "You know, Kenny Morrow [the Islander defenseman and 1980 Olympian] told me that his Olympic year, between college and the pros, was where he developed and gained the confidence to play pro hockey. That was a nice thing to say." Another bite. "There's not a lot of pressure on our team because we're not in any league standings or fighting for anything. The only pressure is to work hard as a team and win."

"Brian's a really good guy and a super player. He'd do real well with us. It's a different type of hockey, though, a lot more skating and weaving. The first two weeks were an adjustment, but now I really like it. With this style, you come around, you weave and then you just go." His face shines. "You go."

Later in the week, the Minnesota North Stars go a bit better. Mahoney announces he is loosening the reins on his new defensive style, and the team's

true character returns; they beat Toronto in a shoot-out, 8-5. Lawton doesn't play a single shift. The clubhouse feels easier, less tense after the game. Lawton undresses in the corner. "Brian Lawton gains experience in the National Hockey League," he laughs, though the laugh is hollow.

Team USA, meanwhile, is out in Salt Lake City, beating the CHL Eagles, Minnesota's top farm team, 8-4. LaFontaine scores two more goals and adds an assist. "He could have had more," says the Eagles' goalie, who happens to be Jim Craig, sent back down after the Washington disaster.

"The Olympics are twice as big as anything any of them will go through later," Craig says. "It's bigger than the Stanley Cup. And the training is the best the U.S. can possibly give. It makes a good player great and a great player even better. Pat will find out what's lacking in his game and have the time to work on it and improve it. He's really fortunate."

Of course, finding yourself in the NHL at 18, as Brian Lawton has, is hardly a stroke of bad luck. It's tough to pity the man who has to choose between a Mercedes and a Jaguar. Still, any choice entails both gain and loss.

"I was very surprised at Brian's decision," says Olympic coach Lou Vairo, "and a little disappointed. If the Olympics were two or three years away, I could understand it, but not for only six months. He could've played for both teams in the same year. The only reason I can think of is what I read, that he really wanted to play pro hockey. If that's the case, then I wish him the best of luck." Vairo pauses. "I only hope he's doing what he wanted to do, and not what some adults wanted him to do."

What Brian Lawton wants to do now is simply prove he belongs—and that opportunity is coming, in bits and pieces. Against Chicago a few days later, Lawton plays consistently, if not regularly, and scores two goals in the second period. He scores again in his next game. "I can skate with them," he says, his confidence growing. "And I'm not having any trouble with team defense. I just need a little more experience so I can make the plays I want to make." The night after Minnesota beats Chicago, the Olympic team loses to Tulsa, and LaFontaine is shut out of the scoring summary.

But goals and assists aren't the entire story. Brian Lawton is working now, growing up in an adult world. Pat LaFontaine, meanwhile, gets to play—just a little bit longer. ★

David Levine is an editor at Sport.

USA in '84? Leave It to the Pros

If the U.S. Olympic hockey team doesn't defend its gold medal in Sarajevo, don't let it get you down. We've got another team in red, white and blue, and this one stands a good chance of beating the world's best in September in what might be the *real* world championships.

The Canada Cup, an international tournament that matches the top hockey-playing nations, has been held every Olympic year since 1976. The rules are very simple—everyone is eligible. And, seemingly overnight, the increased number of established Americans playing professional hockey has given the United States a real chance.

On defense the U.S. team will feature Boston-bred Rod Langway, who was voted the top defenseman in the NHL last season, and Detroit-born Mark Howe, Langway's runner-up. Up front are former Olympians Mark Johnson, Mark Pavelich, Rob McClanahan and Dave Christian, plus young NHL stars Bobby Carpenter and Phil Housley. The goaltending will also be well covered, with Canadian expatriates Tony Esposito and Chico Resch—both now American citizens—and Buffalo rookie Tom Barrasso minding the nets. All this talent doesn't even include new kids Brian Lawton, Pat LaFontaine or any of the other 13 current Olympians drafted by NHL teams who

will be eligible to play.

Team USA finished fourth in the last Canada Cup (held in 1981 because of the 1980 Olympic boycott), but that was before most of these players had been established, or even discovered. Why this sudden surge of talent?

"In the late Sixties and early Seventies hockey was 'The Sport of the Decade,'" says Lou Nanne, the Minnesota North Stars' general manager and, himself, a naturalized Yankee. "There was a national TV contract and a lot of romance surrounding the sport. The caliber of American hockey just increased and we're seeing the first results of that now."

The 1984 Canada Cup, to be held at various Canadian sites, will feature the U.S., Canada, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and West Germany. Each country will play the other once in a round robin, with the top two teams meeting in a best-of-three games final. Sponsored by the NHL and the NHL Players Association, the tournament guarantees each team about \$100,000, with the winner getting up to \$500,000.

The Soviet Union captured the '81 tournament, Canada won in '76. And while it's true that the U.S. team still can't conjure up a Gretzky or a Stastny or a Tretiak, we all well know that miracles on ice do happen, now and then.



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WAKE UP, COLLEGE FOOTBALL YOUR PLAYOFFS ARE HERE

No more selling of bowls.
No more final polls.
Here's how to find the
true national champion.

by Norm Hitzges and David Whitford

We have a dream. We have a dream that all college football teams will one day compete in a nation where they will be judged not by their standing in the polls, but by their performance on the playing field; not by their marketability, but by their ability.

We have a dream, and we are not alone. This fall, Barry Fey, a rock concert promoter, put up \$3 million in a vain attempt to lure undefeated powerhouses Texas and Nebraska into a head-to-head postbowl showdown for the national championship. But the NCAA would have nothing of it, so Fey is back dealing with people he can reason with—like Ozzy Osbourne and Kiss.

College football, meanwhile, remains a dinosaur stuck in another age. While the NCAA now oversees national championships in 33 Division-I sports, only the championship of major college football is left to the caprice of the pollsters. And the pollsters in turn must make their final rankings on the basis of bowl matchups that often have more to do with TV ratings than power ratings. "When a team that has done what ours has is denied participation in a New Year's Day bowl, there is something wrong with the system," says coach Bobby Collins of SMU. "It's time that many people realized that."

We couldn't agree more, coach. For the past two years Sport has been quietly promoting a plan that would make our dream a reality. Too quietly. This year the need for reform is more obvious, more urgent than ever before. The time for action is upon us. Read on, and join us in our struggle.

THE PLAN

With our plan, the college football season would end Thanksgiving weekend; few teams now schedule games in December anyway. Sixteen teams—any less would require eliminating some of the major bowl games, while any more would extend the season past January 1—would advance into the playoffs. We'd extend the first invitations to the consensus top-eight teams in the final AP and UPI polls, published the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Polls are less accurate toward the bottom of the Top 20 than they are toward the top. Therefore we would ask the NCAA computer to fill out the rest of the 16-team field. How will it do it? How does a computer do *anything*? Suffice it to say that if the NCAA can figure out why James Madison deserves a post-season basketball tournament bid and Weber State does not, surely it can handle this.

We arrive at the Final 16. In a single-elimination tournament there would be eight first-round games, four quarterfinals, two semis and a final. Fifteen games in all. Lo and behold, there are exactly 15 major bowls (sorry, California Bowl). So far, so beautiful.

Here's where it gets sticky. The bowls have a well-established pecking order. They have traditions and egos and bowl committees to be massaged. We retreat to logic. Only the four super bowls—Rose, Cotton, Sugar and Orange—have ever hosted a national championship. Our system would give the big four their due, allotting one the title game, two the semifinals and one a quarterfinal matchup (which should involve the No. 1 team), on a rotating basis. Each big bowl would get The Game once every four years. Who could complain? The remaining bowls would follow an 11-year rotation, with each getting eight first-rounders and three quarterfinals.

Pairings would be up to the computer, which would seed the 16 finalists. No. 1 plays No. 16, No. 2 plays No. 15, and so forth. The eight first-round games are then played the second weekend in December, two on Friday night and six scattered throughout Saturday. Maximum exposure (read "maximum television dollars") is insured.

The quarterfinals would be played the third weekend in December, the semis on Christmas weekend, and the final, of course, on New Year's Day.

A MYTHICAL TOURNAMENT

Let's pretend. For the sake of argument we chose our teams at the same time the bowls did, in mid-

The national championship is up for grabs, and everyone will have a chance.





November. Remember, once our plan is implemented there'll be no need to guess ahead about late-season results. Herewith our Sweet 16:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Nebraska | 9. Iowa |
| 2. Texas | 10. BYU |
| 3. Auburn | 11. Washington |
| 4. Illinois | 12. Florida |
| 5. Miami (Fl.) | 13. West Virginia |
| 6. SMU | 14. Missouri |
| 7. Georgia | 15. Tennessee |
| 8. Michigan | 16. Pittsburgh |

Let's not stop there. We have the teams. We have the bowls. We have the plan. So here's a look at what just might happen, what easily *could* happen, what *will* happen, once the world of college football comes to reason. We have a dream. . . .

FIRST ROUND LIBERTY BOWL, MEMPHIS

#1 Nebraska vs. #16 Pittsburgh.

Tens of thousands of the Cornhusker faithful caravan across the wide plains and descend on Memphis. Grateful innkeepers pronounce the end of the blues. Pitt fans are more subdued, sensing the inevitable. On the first play of the game, big Bill Maas flattens Mike Rozier on the line of scrimmage. Could it happen? No way. Turner Gill turns it on and the Huskers roll, 31-13. After the game, President Reagan phones congrats to Tom Osborne. "I'm looking forward to three more of those," Osborne pipes.

ALOHA BOWL, HONOLULU

#5 Miami (Fl.) vs. #12 Florida.

Five thousand miles away from home,

Florida quarterback Wayne Peace strikes fear in the eyes of the Hurricanes, directing an 80-yard scoring drive on the first possession. But freshman Bernie Kosar shows the nation what he has learned in his first semester at college, completing three touchdown passes to avenge Miami's early season drubbing by the Gators, 22-13. President Reagan calls to congratulate the Hurricanes' defense for its "inspiring victory over Peace." White House spokesman Larry Speakes issues an immediate denial.

FLORIDA CITRUS BOWL, ORLANDO #3 Auburn vs. #14 Missouri.

Before the game, both teams visit the new "The Future Is Now" display at Epcot Center celebrating the arrival of a college football championship playoff. Auburn

The Skeptics Argue Their Case. Sorry, Objections

What chance does a playoff plan have in the real world of big-time college football? The roster of playoff supporters is growing. It includes such major college coaches as Fred Akers, Bobby Collins, Vince Dooley, Ray Perkins, Joe Paterno, Jackie Sherrill, Lou Holtz, Barry Switzer and Hayden Fry.

"There's so much talk about it now, and when there's talk there's a better chance of getting something done," says Collins. "I'd say it'll happen in four to five years."

We hope it happens sooner. But all good ideas make a lot of people hoot and howl. That's a given. And the playoff concept certainly has its critics. Say what they may, our faith is unshaken. Hear them out, then decide for yourself.

• "Any playoff plan would require additional games after the season when our players have a lot of makeup work to get in. We'd lose more players academically than

it would be worth."

—Bo Schembechler, Michigan

With our plan, all but four teams would be in the library by the third weekend in December. Under the existing bowl structure, 26 teams will play games on or after Christmas weekend.

• "The players put up with a lot of bruises and hurts. If we had to go through our league, then wade through teams like Texas and Nebraska, there would be a lot more opportunity for injury."

—Don James, Washington

Granted, the increased risk of injury to players is a legitimate concern. But how many extra games are we talking about? Exactly three—the semis and the final. The NCAA already allows some teams to play 13 games. With our plan, only four teams would exceed the current limit.

• "The bowls are a big part of college football history. I wouldn't want to do anything

to hurt them." —Fred Akers, Texas

No need. Our plan preserves all but one of the existing Division I-A bowls, along with the festivals, the parades and the charities they support. How much added revenue would the playoffs generate? Joe Paterno of Penn State and Jackie Sherrill of Texas A&M suggest that \$40 million is a good place to start guessing. The lesser bowls would be transformed overnight from ho-hum matchups into critical preliminaries to the national crown. The big bowls would yell the loudest, but why? Only five times in the last 15 years have the two top-ranked teams met for the national championship in any of the bowls. Our plan would culminate in a title game *every* year, and *guarantee* each of the big bowls a championship game every four years.

• "A playoff would reduce the number of teams that could maintain first-class football programs. Domination of playoffs by



has been on a tear since losing to Texas early, but Missouri QB Marlon Adler, who first made the team as a walk-on punter, shows no respect. It's a toss-up till Auburn's Bo Jackson breaks a long run to set up the winning field goal. Reagan, apparently embarrassed by his latest gaffe, never calls coach Pat Dye.

PEACH BOWL, ATLANTA

#7 Georgia vs. #10 BYU.

It's the infantry vs. the air corps. Atlanta goes Dawg-wild; by game-day the city is awash in red. Jimmy the Greek tabs the Dawgs "prohibitive" favorites and even picks Vince Dooley and his boys to go all the way. Georgia scampers to a 29-17 lead behind tailback Tron Jackson. Top Dawg Herschel Walker is seen leaving his seat. But when ailing tight end Gordon Hud-

son enters the game early in the fourth quarter, QB Steve Young comes alive. Three TD passes and 200 aerial yards later, BYU has the tournament's first upset, 38-29. President Reagan calls to congratulate LaVell Edwards and reads him a prepared statement.

SUN BOWL, EL PASO

#2 Texas vs. #15 Tennessee.

Two UTs, both in orange and white. Analyst Beano Cook notes that with the new playoff system, "Tennessee just might wind up No. 1 after all." Johnny Majors says he still doesn't believe it. With Tennessee leading three field goals to two late in the fourth quarter, Vols QB Alan Cockrell—who earlier suffered a minor concussion—reenters the game. On third-and-long, he fires a strike to Longhorn LB Jeff Leiding standing all alone downfield. Leiding returns the interception 65 yards and scores the winning touchdown. Cockrell, apparently confused by the similarity of the teams' uniforms, high-fives Leiding after the score, then hangs around after the game telling teammates he is expecting a call from President Reagan.

INDEPENDENCE BOWL, SHREVEPORT

#6 SMU vs. #11 Washington.

Three years ago the Independence Bowl matched Bobby Collins' Southern Miss team against McNeese State. Thanks to the playoffs system, Collins is back in Shreveport to take the first step toward a well-earned shot at the national championship. His opponent is master strategist Don James of Washington, whose multiple defenses keep QB Lance McIlhenny guessing all day. But spectacular freshman runner Jeff Atkins tips the balance in favor of SMU, 17-14, and Collins is on his way. "We should've done it this way last year," he laments.

HOLIDAY BOWL, SAN DIEGO

#4 Illinois vs. #13 West Virginia.

Thrills: Happy Husker, Steve Smith, Vol Tim McGee, Pitt rock Bill Fralic, the 'Dawg, Jeff Hostetler, Husky Jacque Robinson and Peace at war.

Footballs are flying. Jeff Hostetler fires two touchdown passes to Rich Hollins and the Mountaineers add nine more off the foot of placekicker Paul Woodside. But it's not enough. Jack Trudeau passes for over 300 yards to pace the Illini, who eventually win it on a 44-yard field goal by Chris White, the coach's son. President Reagan, vacationing at his ranch near San Diego, is on hand but misses the game-winning field goal while chatting to Bobby Collins in Shreveport.

HALL OF FAME CLASSIC, BIRMINGHAM

#8 Michigan vs. #9 Iowa.

Revenge! Iowa lost a heartbreaker to Michigan in October but this is the postseason, when Bo Schembechler almost always finds a way to lose. Iowa wins the coin toss but allows Michigan to receive—then executes a perfect onside kick, rattles off 12 plays without a huddle and jumps in front, 7-0. Later there are flanker reverses, fake punts, flea-flickers, quarterback eligibles and inevitably an Iowa victory, 25-10. "I've been a supporter of the playoff plan for many years," Hayden Fry reminds the press. "Now I know why."

QUARTERFINALS

SUGAR BOWL, NEW ORLEANS

Nebraska vs. Miami.

Nebraska is a heavy favorite and shows why on the first possession, pushing Miami back 80 yards to take a 7-0 lead. The Hurricanes strike back behind coach Howard Schnellenberger's pro-style passing attack. Kosar sets up screens and dump passes to blunt the rush and starts putting points on the board. But if Ne-

Overruled

a few teams would result in a huge shift of the economic benefit to a few teams."

—Orange Bowl Committee position paper

Simply not true. All teams, apart from the independents, are subject to conference regulations designed to share the wealth equitably among all members. More important, the Orange Bowl Committee assumes that the playoffs would be dominated by relatively few teams. Certainly that is already the case with the major bowls. "During the past 10 years," according to the same Orange Bowl position paper, "only nine teams have accounted for almost two-thirds of the available positions in the 40 Orange, Cotton, Sugar and Rose Bowl games." Our plan—by eliminating all automatic bowl bids and the bias that exists in favor of traditional powers—would open up postseason opportunities for teams long ignored by TV networks and bowl committees.

The defense rests.



braska can do just one thing it's score points, and the Huskers pull ahead to win, 45-21. Coach Osborne gets his second phone call from President Reagan. "Ron and I are real tight," he later confides to the press.

GATOR BOWL, JACKSONVILLE

Auburn vs. BYU.

BYU is up against another running, ball-control SEC offense. Auburn's interior of-

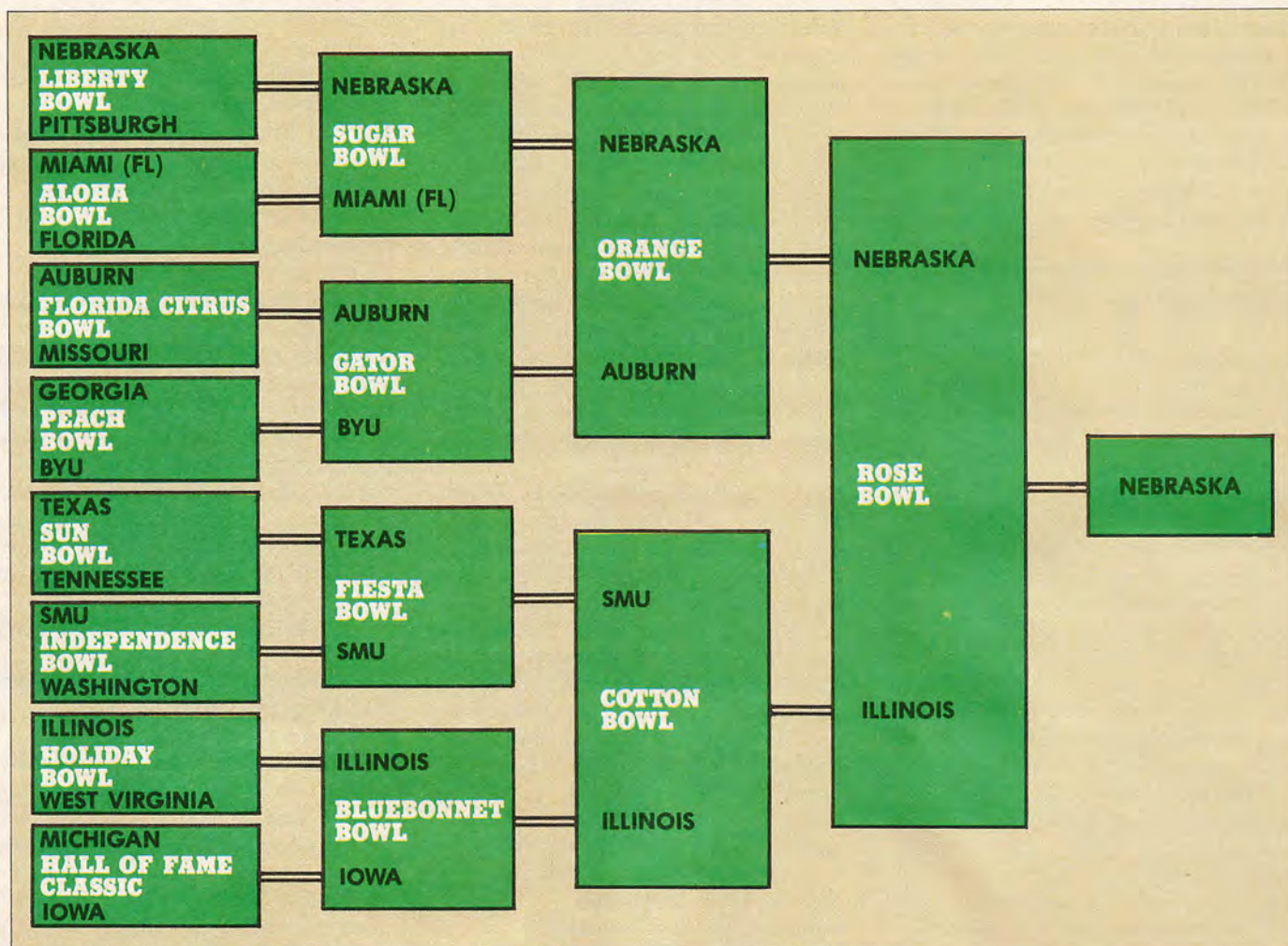
fensive line is almost impermeable, allowing QB Randy Campbell and running backs Bo Jackson and Lionel James all the time they need to run, pass, pitch and hand off. Steve Young tries to play catch-up. He throws 47 passes, four to Auburn defenders. Tigers control the ball for 40 minutes and roll into the semis, 34-17. President Reagan calls to congratulate coach Dye, but Dye is miffed at not be-

ing called the week before and refuses to come to the phone.

FIESTA BOWL, TEMPE

Texas vs. SMU.

During the regular season, Texas handed SMU its only loss in two and a half years, 15-12, and coach Bobby Collins' Mustangs are anxious to even the score. After a scoreless first half, two teams that prefer to run come out throwing the ball.





Lots of interceptions. Lots of mistakes. Very few points. The game appears headed into overtime after barefoot punter John Teltschik plants the Mustangs on their own two-yard line with three minutes to play. But Lance McIlhenny rides his horses 75 yards to set up the winning field goal and spoil the Nebraska-Texas dream game. Final score, 13-10. Collins pays tribute to Sport Magazine for helping to make it all possible. **BLUEBONNET BOWL, HOUSTON**

Illinois vs. Iowa.

More revenge? The Illini thrashed the Hawkeyes 33-7 during the regular season, but Iowa coach Fry vows this time it'll be different. Well, Jack Trudeau comes out throwing, putting two quick scores on the board with touchdown passes to David Williams and Thomas Rooks. Iowa QB Chuck Long comes up way short by comparison. The Illini advance, 27-24. "I don't know," says Fry after the game. "Maybe these playoffs aren't such a good idea after all."

SEMIFINALS

ORANGE BOWL, MIAMI

Nebraska vs. Auburn.

First there were 16, then there were eight. Now there are only the Final Four. Osborne tells the Husker throng at a beach-front pep rally that all he wants for Christmas is a trip to Pasadena. Press draws attention to the fact that, without the playoff system, the champions of the SEC and the Big Eight could never have met. Auburn's only loss all season was to much-bigger, much-stronger Texas, and Nebraska holds a similar edge. The advantage shows as the Huskers open the second half with two relentless 80-yard scoring drives. Auburn abandons its ball-control offense and manages to tie the game in the final seconds, setting up the first overtime ever in Division I-A college

football. When Nebraska wins the coin toss, it's all over for the Tigers. Osborne rushes to the lockerroom to call his pal Ron and tell him all about it.

COTTON BOWL, DALLAS

Illinois vs. SMU.

Many Dallas football fans never even knew SMU existed, but even with the NFL playoffs under way it's the Mustangs who are getting all the ink. Bobby Collins tells the press he's worried about the Illini passing attack. He needn't be—the Big 10 champs stow their passing game early and run, run, run. The Mustangs, geared to stop Trudeau, give ground. Thomas Rooks breaks a 65-yard touchdown and Chris White adds a field goal for a 10-0 lead at halftime. It's all

And chills: Teltschik's Texas toe, Five'n Illini, Mighty Steve Young, passel of Ponies, a passer named Bernie, Little Train James and MVP Turner Gill.

they'll need but they'll need it all as Illinois wins, 10-9. "We lost, but we had our chance," says Bobby Collins. "That's all that matters."

FINAL

ROSE BOWL, PASADENA

Nebraska vs. Illinois.

The week-long buildup is unprecedented. Mike White of Illinois—odds-on favorite for coach of the year—praises the playoff system for allowing a Cinderella team like his, which lost early in the year and even dropped out of the Top 20, the chance to make it all the way back. Vegas makes Nebraska a six-and-a-half point favorite and reports more action on this game than on either of last weekend's NFL wild card matchups. Huskers take control early in the game. Later White will admit his troops were drained from the pounding they took against SMU. Then a mistake. A fumble. Trudeau hits a quick seven, followed by an onside kick and another score. Nice but late as Nebraska holds on to win, 28-24. "I'm proud of my team for proving it's No. 1," Osborne declares after the game. President Reagan phones the lockerroom and talks to Osborne, Sport MVP Turner Gill, Irving Fryar, Mike Rozier, athletic director Bob Devaney and university chancellor Dr. Martin Massengale. Later he invites the entire Nebraska football team, "and the editors of Sport Magazine, who helped make the playoff dream a reality," to lunch at the White House. ★

Norm Hitzges is a Dallas sports broadcaster. David Whitford is an editor at Sport.

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STILL WAITING FOR LEFTY

With all that talent, and all those chances, why hasn't Maryland's Lefty Driesell been able to win the Big One?

by John Pugh

Call him Lefty. Like Napoleon and Billy the Kid and Steve Carlton. An imperial if scrappy outlaw with style and ambition and, alas, a damnable late-season sinker. In 14 seasons, Lefty Driesell's University of Maryland basketball teams have qualified for the NCAA Tournament five times, and three of those times the Terrapins were ranked among the Top 10 teams in the country at the end of the year. Yet never has Driesell been among the final four coaches in the tournament. The Big One has been Lefty Driesell's Lord Nelson and Pat Garrett and Rick Dempsey.

Once more, the Terps seem like a contender for a national title. With their entire starting team back from last year, when it won 20 games and lost 10 (and lost in the tournament to eventual finalist Houston), Maryland was a consensus Top 20 team according to the preseason polls and a serious rival to North Carolina for the ACC title.

On paper, this looks like Driesell's best team in years. So the question arises: Will it go any further than Lefty's other apparently superior teams of the past? Despite a reputation as a brilliant recruiter—whose pursuit and capture of Moses Malone in 1974 (only to lose him to the pro dollars of the ABA) is legendary—and despite averaging 20 victories a year in his 14 seasons at College Park, Driesell has never won a conference tournament and has never made

it even to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament. Driesell has had such players as Tom McMillen, Len Elmore, John Lucas, Brad Davis, Steve Sheppard, Jim O'Brien, Albert King and Buck Williams. Yet for all the talent, all the promise and all the victories, Maryland has only one NIT championship to show for it.

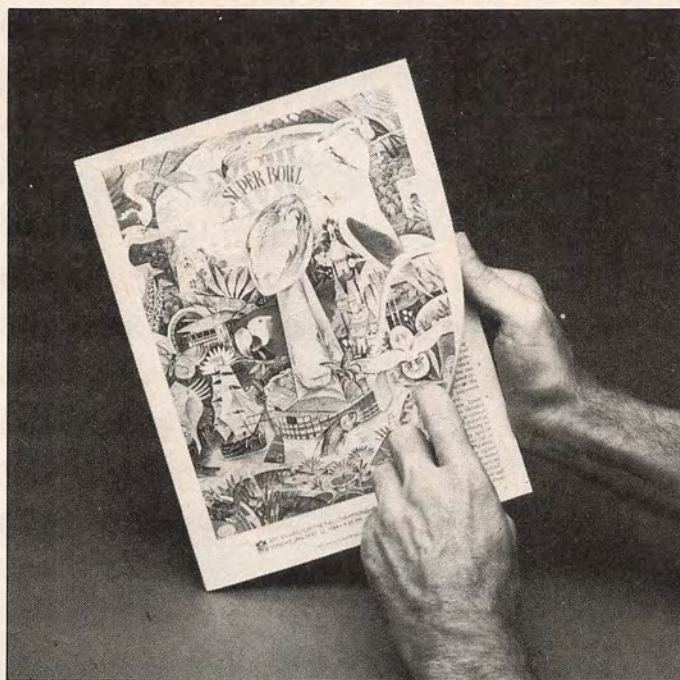
It hasn't helped that Lefty Driesell seems to delight in making himself a villainous figure—practically the Pancho Villa of the ACC, which has always been a conference of Southern gentlemanly style, from Everett Case to Dean Smith to Norm Sloan to Terry Holland. Suddenly in the midst of all this, like a motorcycle rider crashing a high school prom, comes Lefty. His grammar is atrocious. His manner is overbearing. His sideline histrionics are inflammatory—waving “V” signs, prancing up and down the sideline, flinging himself to the floor and suddenly leaping up like a manic jack-



Lefty's theatrics draw mixed reviews.

in-the-box. Supporters say his color and intensity are what make him a great recruiter and motivator and, by the way, what helped turn a moribund program into a consistent power. Critics say he's only good enough to take a program so far, that when the chips are down his emotionalism is a liability, that in the important games he will be outcoached by cooler heads. As long as Maryland fails to win something big, Lefty Driesell would seem to be a

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double-edged sword.

He's got a chance to win something big again this season, based on the talent and experience on his roster.

Adrian Branch, a 6-8 junior who led the team in scoring for the last two seasons while moving between guard and forward, is one of the best shooters in Division I and a likely high NBA draft pick sooner or later. So may be freshman guard Keith Gatlin, another recruiting stroke by Driesell, who spirited Gatlin—the high school player of the year in North Carolina—out from under both Dean Smith and Jim Valvano. Some ACC watchers think Gatlin could be Maryland's best point guard since John Lucas and Brad Davis in the mid-Seventies. The team also has a typically strong Driesell tree line in the front court, with 6-9 center Ben Coleman and forwards Herman Veal (6-6) and Len Bias (6-8), backed up by another keep-your-eye-on freshman, Terry Long (6-8, 240).

Given that team, it looks as though Driesell may be looking at another Big One next spring.

The UCLA of the East

March 1974. The ACC tournament final. "The Greatest Game Ever," as it's known in the conference. North Carolina State vs. University of Maryland. Up and down the court two powerhouses roaring and raging at each other for 45 minutes. Forty-five minutes of Len Elmore matching Tom Burleson elbow for elbow. Of Tom McMillen and Tim Stoddard jamming and slamming both the ball and each other. Of David Thompson's sky-walking heroics vs. John Lucas' uncertainty, but electrifying, brilliance. When at



Branch over UCLA of the West.

last N.C. State had prevailed 103-100 in overtime, an exuberant Maryland fan was heard to say, "Win or lose, UCLA *never* played a game like that."

Maybe, but that wasn't much consola-

tion. In fact, had Lefty Driesell overheard that, it would have stung. Because five years earlier, upon assuming the head coach's job at Maryland, Driesell had vowed to make his school "the UCLA of the East." And the promise stuck like a curse. For five years the fans, the press, the alumni reminded Lefty of it after each loss. And though in March 1974 the Terapins may have played like UCLA, they lost the tournament nonetheless. Like Maryland.

Supporters point to bad breaks, fluke plays, heroic individual performances by opponents to explain Lefty's disappointing record. "In last year's NCAA final between Houston and N.C. State, in one game, maybe just one unbelievable play, Jim Valvano did to Guy Lewis what other coaches have been doing to Lefty for years," says Bill Brill, sports editor of the *Roanoke (Virginia) Times & World-News* and a former classmate of Driesell's at Duke. Valvano got hot, he means.

"The fact remains," says one longtime ACC observer, "that Maryland simply has never won when it counted. The primary reason is Lefty's coaching—or lack of it. Lefty has always gotten by on charm, style and personality. But sooner or later Lefty finds he can't 'Aw, shucks' his way through games. As the game goes on, if Maryland is losing or even if it's just a good, close game, Lefty invariably loses control of himself, of his players and finally of the game itself. He still can't seem to learn from his mistakes, that all his screaming and towel-throwing and floor stomping have never put one ball in one basket. Yet these 'eccentricities' will always be the main characteristics of his coaching."

Super Salesmen: The College Recruiters Hall of Fame

Lefty Driesell is probably still the top recruiter in the country. After all, he landed Tom McMillen, Tom Roy and Moses Malone—the first three high school players inducted into the Hall of Fame. Here is an alphabetical list of the other Top 10 basketball recruiters.

Tom Abatemarco, assistant, North Carolina State. Ex-Driesell lieutenant. Has nailed early commitment from Chris Washburn, the best post prospect in the country this season.

Roger Banks, assistant, Auburn. Struck a mother lode last year. As assistant at Georgia, responsible for recruiting Dominique Wilkins, James Banks and Vern Fleming.

Larry Brown, head coach, Kansas. Legend now includes his hiring Ed Manning as assistant recently; the same Ed

Manning whose son Danny happens to be top high school forward in country. **Bobby Cremins, head coach, Georgia Tech.** Great eye for talent. Now has reeled in prep all-American Duane Ferrell from Baltimore.

Leonard Hamilton, assistant, Kentucky. The reason why the Wildcats always among top three in recruiting. Now has picked up Winston Bennett from Louisville and Richard (Master Blaster) Madison from Memphis.

Wade Houston, assistant, Louisville. Denny Crum did most of John Wooden's leg work, and now Houston does same for Crum.

George Raveling, head coach, Iowa. Driesell's first recruiter at Maryland. This summer made sure blue-chip Al Lorenzen of Cedar Rapids received a record 25

birthday cards—including best wishes from the governor and hometown mayor. **Larry Shyatt, assistant, New Mexico.** Lobos were all over the East last year, signing Kelvin Scarborough from D.C. and Larry Markland from New York.

Dean Smith, head coach, North Carolina. Blue-chippers keep coming to Blue Heaven. Carolina again signed its three top recruits last year.

Honorable Mention: Dave Pritchett. Retired now, but former Driesell assistant did the work on Moses Malone. Pritchett's creed: "I'll always beat guys who chase women, sleep late, drink liquor and play cards. Many is the man who thought, at nine o'clock, while shaving, that there was a prospect unsigned. Little did he know he'd been history at seven."
—Dick Weiss



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Promises Delivered

Whatever his perceived failings in pressure games, Lefty Driesell can coach. He has always been able to coach. In his first head coaching job, at a high school in eastern Virginia, he compiled a 97-15 record, including one 57-game winning streak and one state championship. Then he took on the head coach's job at Davidson, a 1,000-student private school near Charlotte, North Carolina. When he took the job—at 28, the youngest head coach in Division I basketball—he promised the school a nationally ranked team within three years. Ha ha. At the end of his third year, Davidson was ranked 18 in the final AP poll. When he left six years later, Davidson was ranked third.

"When I came to Davidson my salary was \$6,200 and my recruiting budget was \$500. I actually took a pay cut from high school coaching," Driesell says. "I had an old, beat-up station wagon I took on recruiting trips. I'd sleep in the car, then wash up and shave the next morning in a filling station restroom. I managed to sign Terry Holland the first year. The next year I recruited the entire freshman class, which included Fred Hetzel and Barry Teague. Soon we were filling up the place every game. We probably made more profit than any other school in the

country because we only had 1,000 students; everything else was public sales."

In March 1969, after a 178-65 record in nine years at Davidson, it was on to Maryland. Though the Terrapin basketball program had languished for years, at last Lefty was in the coveted ACC. The big time. The nation's capital. The national spotlight. At last the colorful, lovable Driesell who had been hidden away at tiny Davidson would be revealed to the basketball world, and that world, in turn, would clutch him to its bosom.

Then Lefty Driesell revealed his Achilles' lip. He made his proclamation about becoming the UCLA of the East. Despite his trim vests, the broad accountant's scoop of his hairline and his round, avuncular profile, Driesell's indecorous side was soon discovered by the Washington spotlight. In fact at times he appeared to be a shameless, immodest, unreconstructed hick. "Lefty is the only person I know who cultivates an image that makes him appear less than he really is," says Bill Brill. "His malapropisms, his slaying of the English language, his exaggerated Tobacco Road accent—I've always thought all this was done for purposeful effect."

Driesell denies all that. "I'm not dumb and I don't act dumb," he says. "Most

people who know me know I made the dean's list at Duke, so I probably couldn't fool anybody if I wanted to."

And yet in the same conversation he will say:

"Onct dey leave Murrilan' . . .

"He's awn 'is way up 'er . . .

"Anybody don't go t' 'at class, ah'm gawn run 'er legs off tomarr. . ."

In practice he will ask a player, "Whu'd ah teh yew t' dew awn 'at play?"

Past and present players and associates seem to understand. They all swear by him, citing his candor, his propensity for work, his highly organized program and, topping the list, his concern about them.

"Lefty encouraged me to run for president of the student body, even though he knew it would take a lot of time away from basketball," says Tom McMillen. "But he felt being president would help me in later life more than it would help him if he had me at every practice."

The Media Star

Yet his manner and his mouth still get him into trouble, sometimes serious trouble. Last year he created an angry storm on campus when a student who had accused team co-captain Herman Veal of sexual abuse later said that Driesell had tried to threaten her into dropping the

You Can't Tell Wake Forest for the Trees

If Lefty Driesell's

Maryland has had a hard time earning respect in the toughest conference in the country, imagine the difficulties of Carl Tacy's Wake Forest. When outsiders think of the ACC, they tend to think of North Carolina, N.C. State, Maryland, Duke and Virginia. Or even Georgia Tech or Clemson. But few think of the Old Gold and Black, the smallest school in the conference (enrollment: 4,800), the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest.

Yet, in the ACC, only North Carolina and Ralph Sampson-led Virginia won more games over the last three years than did Wake. And still nobody notices. Well, since 1980 the Deacons have averaged 21 victories a season, have advanced to the NCAA Tournament twice and last year—despite an end-of-season collapse that cost them their last five games in a row—they finished 20-12 and advanced to the semifinals of the NIT. Almost everybody expects more this season. Everybody who's heard of them, that is.

Unfortunately, there has always seemed to be a bigger and better story in the



neighborhood. Wake has failed to recruit the high-profile center who draws attention. Its schedule creates deceptive victory totals, routinely featuring nonconference foes like Rollins, UNC-Wilmington and Monmouth. With Dean Smith and Lefty Driesell and Jim Valvano and Ralph Sampson around, Wake could wait.



Deacons don't kneel to Heels.

Besides, the last time the Deacs won an ACC title or advanced to the Final Four was 1962, when guard Billy Packer (yes, *that* Billy Packer) led the team. They just haven't been very sexy.

But this year, they are showing a lot more leg. Wake is experienced and deep, and has been fortified with a couple of dazzling freshmen—6-7 high school all-American Mark Cline and 5-3 Tyrone Bogues, the MVP of national champion Dunbar High in Baltimore—and by 6-8 Todd May, a transfer from Kentucky. Wake plays tough, variegated defenses, runs a devastating fast-break offense and makes up for its usual lack of inside muscle with great quickness.

Tacy—who is known as "Gentleman Carl" and who has defeated North Carolina more than any other active coach—expects team morale to bounce back from last year's late-season unpleasantness. That should follow in part from greater use of his bench, which is better and deeper. In fact, with four returning starters, an exceptional bench and a beefed-up schedule, the Demon Deacons could finally draw attention as a national power.

They may even draw attention in the ACC.

—Barry Jacobs

Rick Dempsey

BEST OF THE BIRDS



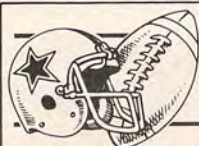
Sometimes it's the little guy who proves to be the most valuable asset a team can have when the chips are down. The Baltimore Orioles' veteran catcher Rick Dempsey is that kind of guy. A lifetime .240 hitter, Dempsey set a World Series record with five extra base hits in five games as he led the Orioles to the world title against the Philadelphia Phillies.

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charges. The Women's Center on campus called for his resignation, and Driesell struck back by calling the charges against Veal a frame-up. There was more attention on Driesell than on Veal. Ultimately Driesell apologized to the student and received a formal reprimand from the chancellor of the university and a warning that such a "flagrant violation of university standards" in the future could cost him his job.

In Washington, Driesell's lack of public decorum has made him something of a media sensation. "The Washington media, I wouldn't call it a feud," Driesell says, "but they have written a lot of negative stuff, and I have gotten mad at them. But the Washington press is just negative in general. George Allen could once do no wrong as far as the media were concerned. Then they turned on him and ran him out of town. Jack Pardee and Dick Motta were both coach of the year. They ran them out of town. They've run four United States presidents out of town since I've been here. They've tried to run me out of town, but I've outlasted every coach in the ACC but Dean Smith."

"Lefty can get spectacularly angry," says Ken Denlinger, a sports columnist for the *Washington Post* and one of Driesell's principal critics over the years, "but he has the shortest hang-time for grudges of anyone I know. A few years ago he wanted to fight me in the dressing room; a couple of weeks later he was agreeably talking my ear off on the phone." Denlinger also gives Driesell credit for opening the D.C. area to basketball, generating the attention that indirectly brought the Bullets to town and that prompted Georgetown to upgrade its program. "Lefty created interest," he says.

He made it interesting for players, as well. "In high school I was coached by a man who never showed any emotion," Driesell says. "He never got on us when we were behind, never praised us when we were ahead. Whether we were 20 points behind or 20 points ahead, you could never tell it by looking at him—the original Tom Landry. I used to look at him and think, 'There's got to be another way of coaching than this.' Because that was not how I wanted to be coached as a player. Later when I got into high school coaching, I found I could intimidate the refs by yelling at them."

As the tournament losses mounted, however, that excitability became a ripe target. "Because of all his histrionics, the basketball public has a gross misconception of Lefty as a game coach," says Tom McMillen. "They think he substitutes flamboyance for coaching ability. But

that's just Lefty; he's an emotional person and an even more emotional coach. The best coaches are those who refine the game to its basic elements and then let their players go out and play. Lefty has always believed in his players first, in strategies and formations second."

Driesell long agitated for rotating the ACC tournament site so he wouldn't always face playing the big games away from home. Finally, in 1976, he got his wish. It did little good. Sixth-place finisher Virginia, led by Wally Walker, upset Maryland—and everyone else—to win the tournament. Five years later the Capital Centre was again the venue. Again Lefty lost, this time by one point to Dean Smith.

"Of all the big games that Lefty's lost," says one local critic, "the one that showed me that it was his coaching that lost it was the Greatest Game Ever. Maryland had the ball, score tied, with 25 seconds left in regulation—and never got off a shot. Does that sound like a team that's been well coached?"

Reality Island

One evening after practice recently, Driesell reflected on his reputation. "I'm not trying to project the image of a great coach or that I think coaching basketball is that important," he said. "Basically, coaching is pretty simple: know something about the game and be able to motivate the players. I also try to motivate them to be punctual, to dress right, to make full use of the academic opportunities and the full range of college life.

"As for my reputation as a recruiter, I've probably missed as many as I've landed. Moses Malone, I couldn't get

more than 10 words out of him. I drove him up for a visit and he slept the whole trip. I thought, 'Here's one kid I'll never sign.' Then one night he told me he wanted to come play for me. I was as surprised as anybody."

"What most people don't realize is that Lefty took a program that had been left for dead and turned it around in just three years," says Tom McMillen. "And Maryland is in a much more competitive conference than UCLA. I wonder how many national championships UCLA would have won if they had had to survive the ACC tournament every year."

In fact, there are no UCLAs anywhere anymore. So why hold it against Lefty Driesell? He's colorful and he's produced one of the best and most consistent basketball programs in the country. It's an interesting dilemma. Maybe if he had reined himself in a little, and if he hadn't drawn so much attention to himself, and in particular if he hadn't uttered that one brash, unfortunate prediction, Driesell would be as admired and respected as, say, John Wooden. Or maybe the whole country would be rooting for him finally to win the Big One, the way it once rooted for Dean Smith, Joe Paterno and Jerry West. Or maybe this will be the year he makes the whole question moot.

"John Wooden didn't win his first championship until he was 54," Driesell says. "I'm only 51. So I've still got a long way to go. I haven't won any national championships yet. But I'm not through yet, either." ★

John Pugh is a freelance writer who lives in Virginia.

PICTURE CREDITS

Cover: Russ Kennedy. 3—Clockwise from left: John McDonough (2), Jerry Wachter, John McDonough, David Madison, Jerry Wachter. 9—Michael Hart (top), Rich Pilling (left), Bruce Bennett. 10—Dan Bridy (left), Bill Smith. 13—Rich Pilling (left), Jerry Wachter. 14—Noren Trotman (top), Ledru/Sygma. 17—David Madison. 27—Paul Rogers. 28—John E. Biever (left), John McDonough. 29—Rich Pilling (top), Paul Rogers. 30—Carl Skalak (left), Ron Wyatt. 31—Rich Pilling (top left), John McDonough (bottom left and right). 33—John McDonough (left), Paul

Rogers. 34—Rich Pilling. 38,39,41,42,44—John McDonough. 47—Bill Smith. 48,57—Jerry Wachter. 58,59—From left: John McDonough, Rob Brown, David L. Johnson, George Gojkovich, Manny Rubio, Russ Kennedy, John McDonough, Jerry Wachter. 60,61—From left: Rob Brown, David Walberg, Glenn Feingerts, John McDonough, Dan Helms (2), John McDonough. 63,65—Jerry Wachter. 67—David L. Johnson. 71—From left: Jerry Wachter, John McDonough (2), Fred Kaplan. 72—Jan Sawka.

SPORT QUIZ

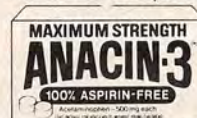
Answers from page 71. 1—b. 2—Terry Bradshaw. 3—c. 4—Marinano averaged a record 174.6 yards per game over his college career. 5—b. 6—James Lofton. 7—Green Bay Packers, 13-5. 8—a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2. 9—c. 10—Dick Irvin, with Chicago, Toronto and Montreal,

1930-56. 11—b. 12—a-4, b-3, c-1, d-2. 13—Mike Nelms, Washington. Answer to last month's Stumper (Name the football player who served as the model for the Heisman Trophy statue): Ed Smith, a star on the 1934 New York University team.

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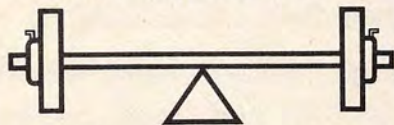
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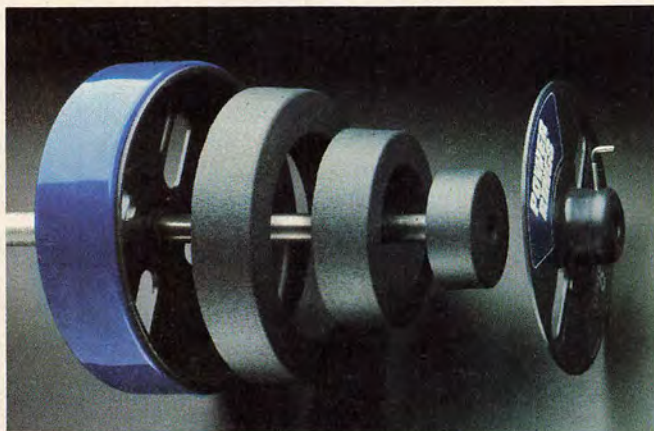
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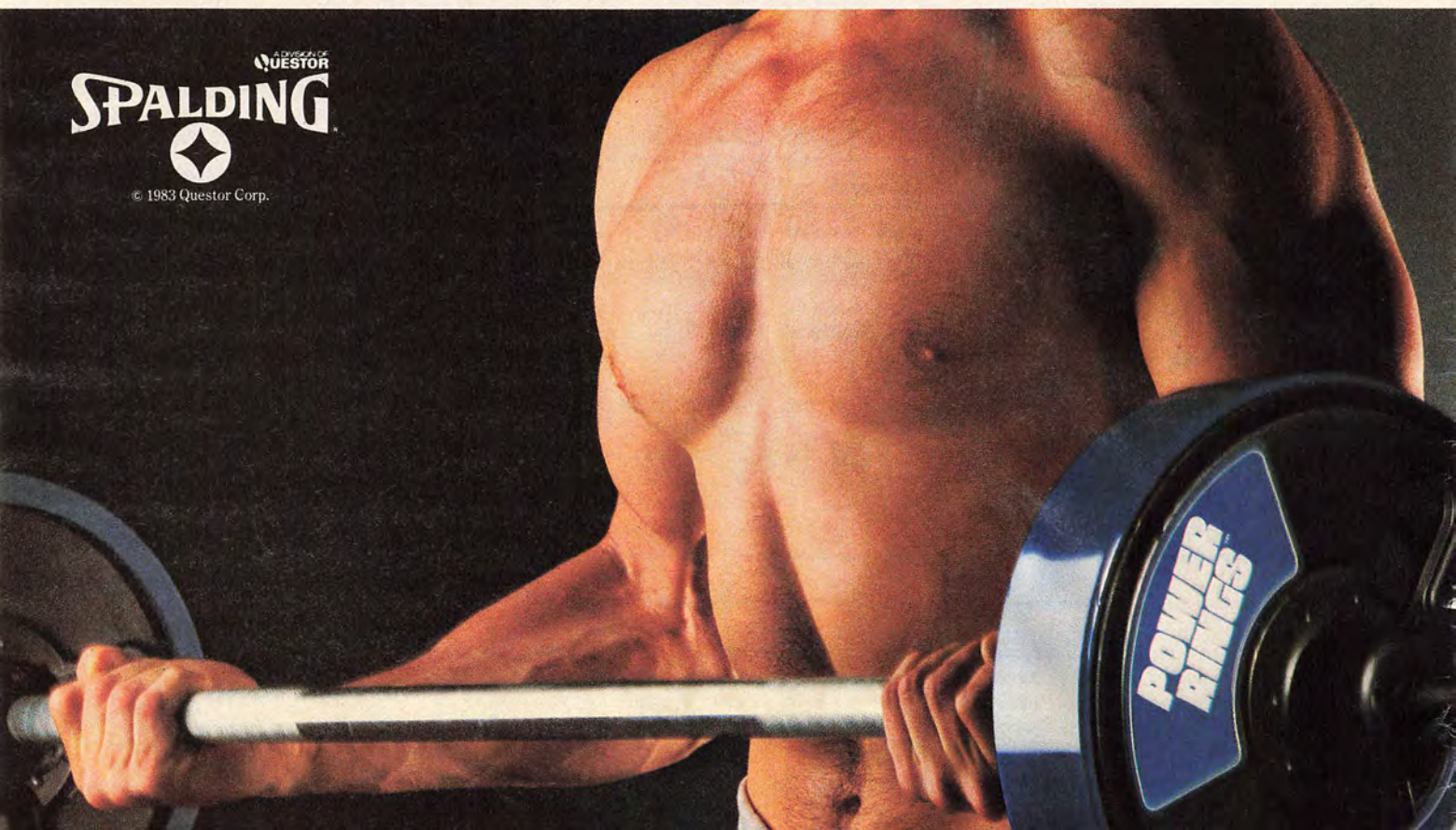
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SPORT QUIZ

1. Who holds the NFL record for most fumbles in a playoff game (4)?



a. Tony Dorsett



b. Brian Sipe



c. Chuck Muncie



d. Jim Plunkett

2. Both Richard Todd of the Jets and Dan Fouts of the Chargers threw five interceptions in one playoff game last season. Who holds the career record for interceptions thrown in postseason play (26)?

3. New Jersey's Darryl Dawkins committed an NBA-record 379 personal fouls last season. Which player held the previous record of 372 fouls?

- a. Darryl Dawkins
- b. Lonnie Shelton
- c. Steve Johnson
- d. Bill Robinszine

4. Ed Marinaro, star of "Hill Street Blues," was a standout college running back at Cornell, finishing second in the Heisman Trophy balloting in 1971. Which NCAA rushing record does Marinaro still hold?

5. The Kings' Marcel Dionne leads all active NHL players with 25 career hat tricks as of the start of this season. Who holds the all-time record of 32 three-goal games?

- a. Bobby Hull
- b. Phil Esposito
- c. Gordie Howe
- d. Maurice Richard

6. The longest touchdown run in an NFL playoff game was 71 yards, but it was not done by a running back. Who made that run?

7. The Dallas Cowboys have won 20 postseason games, more than any other NFL team, but their winning percentage is just .588. Which team has the best winning playoff record (.722)?

8. Match the school with the only major bowl game it has won.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a. Harvard | 1. Orange Bowl |
| b. Duquesne | 2. Sugar Bowl |
| c. St. Mary's | 3. Rose Bowl |
| d. Fordham | 4. Cotton Bowl |

9. Adrian Dantley had the most points in a game in the NBA last season, hitting for 57 against the Chicago Bulls. Three others also scored over 50 points in a game. Which of these gunners did not?

- a. Kelly Tripucka
- b. Larry Bird
- c. Kiki Vandeweghe
- d. Joe Barry Carroll

10. Buffalo coach Scotty Bowman has the NHL's best winning percentage (.679) over 15 years with St. Louis, Montreal and the Sabres. His 632 career wins place him second in that category.

gory. Which former NHL coach won the most games (690)?

11. In which of these categories does Elvin Hayes *not* lead all active NBA players?

- a. Field goals attempted
- b. Field goals made
- c. Free throws attempted
- d. Free throws made

12. Match the American League slugger with the hitting category he led in 1983.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| a. Cal Ripken | 1. On-base percentage |
| b. George Brett | 2. Game-winning RBIs |
| c. Wade Boggs | 3. Slugging percentage |
| d. Harold Baines | 4. Runs scored |

13. Fulton Walker's 98-yard kickoff return for the Dolphins in last year's Super Bowl established a postseason record. Last year also saw a new record for kickoff returns in a conference championship game. Whose 76-yard return set the record?

The Stumper

Who took the first penalty shot in the NHL, who was the opposing goalie, and what was the result?

Answer the Stumper and win a Sport T-shirt. In case of a tie, we'll draw three winners. The Stumper answer will appear next month; other answers are on page 69. Send postcards only (with T-shirt size) to Sport Quiz, 119 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018, by January 6.

FINISH LINE

Sarajevo, before the deluge.

by Calvin Fussman

They came to the mountain taking warmth from plastic flasks of Slivovitz and passing yogurt-soaked chunks of pita bread to their comrades. On a Saturday late in October, busloads of Sarajevoans climbed the shoulder of Mount Bjelasnica to see just what they had invested two years of money, muscle and heart in. The buses stopped and the people got out to take a look at the men's downhill slope that will be challenging the world's best skiers in February during the XIV Winter Olympic Games.

Ski-lift chairs ascended into the snow-dusted evergreens and vanished into the mist. The loudspeakers released an electronic hiss and suddenly the hills were alive with the sound of music—American rap music.

*"I don't wanna go to school
Teacher's a jerk
He thinks I'm a fool . . ."*

A Western visitor with preconceived images of a grim Iron Curtain city is surprised at the first sight of Sarajevo. The city is a comfortable blend of communism and capitalism, a mixture of East and West, Slavs and Turks, old and new.

A picture of the late premier, Marshal Tito, posed in military uniform, sits above the cigarette-smoke haze in the crammed discotheques, where cosmetics-conscious 20-year-olds nod to the music of Lou Reed, the Four Tops and Flashdance. Ask them about the photograph and they talk with unanimous sincerity of what a kindly man Tito was beneath the crust.

Men kneel and dip their foreheads to the ground under the tiled domes of the Gazi Husref Beg Mosque in prayer for the spirit of a man who rests in a nearby coffin. Not far off, a buxom woman in leotards poses athletically on a poster advertising the Arobik Klub.

Young boys and old men still gather at the market near the Miljaka River on Sunday mornings to argue whether their captured pigeons are worth 60 dinars (55 cents) or 100 dinars (92 cents). Down the street, American Express and Diner's Club International stickers fight for space on boutique shop windows.

Sarajevo is simultaneously trying to retain a piece of its soul and curtsy to what

it perceives as the whims of the outside world. For a country that has historically been under the heel of that outside world, the Olympic Games have become a way of proving its worth.

"To understand what the Olympics mean to us, you have to understand our history," a 29-year-old painter says. "For



centuries, armies from both the East and West have come and conquered us. The Venetians. The Turks. Austria-Hungary. Napoleon. Hitler. They have all taken turns. Most of the world doesn't know about that. All they know about Sarajevo is it's the place where a 19-year-old kid shot Archduke Ferdinand to start World War I. We are the underdogs and our people burn with a desire to prove to everyone that we are just as good as them. Many people believe we cannot do it. This is our chance."

The citizens of Sarajevo first voted to deduct two percent of their wages in support of the cause. Then thousands heeded the call for further contributions. But the people have given far more than just finances. The routine of their lives has been disrupted.

Elementary school children carry water and prepare food for high school students clearing out sections of mountain-forest. Policemen revoke drivers' licenses for minor violations rather than impose the customary penalty of an on-the-spot fine, because of the already mounting traffic

problems. Taxi cab drivers are encouraged to take lessons in etiquette and in the rudiments of a foreign language. "Hello! That will be 200 dinars, please. Thank you."

The Olympics are expected to earn an \$88-million profit for this city, as the bulk of the \$130-million cost has been covered by ABC television and various worldwide sponsors. In a country with a \$20-billion debt, with coffee, meat and gas shortages and limited natural resources, the prospect of recognition and a boom in tourism is welcome. Yet the people give little sign of being aware of the possibilities of exploitation.

"A man from London was charged \$86 a night for a room at the new Holiday Inn," a clerk in a more proletarian lodging house said. "I cannot believe this. For \$86, I give him room in my house. I give him television. I give him meal. I give him one bottle of drink. No, I give him two bottles of drink. In one month I earn \$130. Eighty-six dollars a night!"

People don't seem to feel the compulsion to bilk. They are more preoccupied with the question of whether the roads and streets will be finished on time, whether snowstorms and biting cold will disturb the competition, whether Sarajevo will pass inspection.

As the buses headed down Mount Bjelasnica after the unveiling of the Olympic facilities, a reporter stood in the aisle and continued his search for locals who could speak English.

A group of adolescent girls flocked around him, naive curiosity and bashful uncertainty showing itself in a chorus of nervous giggling.

"Where is you live?"

"New York."

"Oooooooh!"

One of the girls insists the visitor have her candy bar, another he have her seat. Old women and men look on, smiling and nodding.

The outsiders are coming to Yugoslavia again.

Calvin Fussman, a New York writer, spent a week in Sarajevo this fall.

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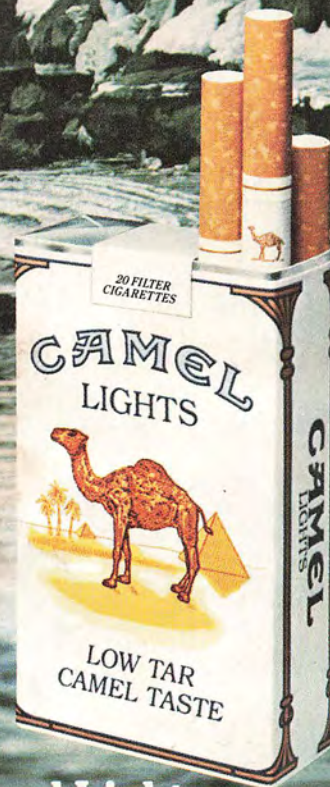
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